common app 2025 -2026

DANIEL OKIMOTO

PROFILE

Personal Information

Name	Okimoto, Daniel
Share different name	Yes
Different name	Z
Birthdate	10/15/2008
Address	2 Diamond Court Atlanta, GA, 30306
Pronouns	They/Them
Gender Identity	Nonbinary

Citizenship

Citizenship Status	US Citizen
Birthplace	Atlanta, GA

Language

English	First Language
Japanese	Speak; Spoken at Home

FAMILY

Household

Parents	Married
Home	Both Parents

Parent 1

Name	Mother – Dr. Yuko Okimoto
Occupation	Pharmacist, Employed
Education	Graduate School Bachelors (2000), Doctorate (2004), University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Parent 2

Name	Father – Mr. Akira Okimoto
Occupation	Architect or Urban Planner, Employed
Education	Graduated from college/university (1998), Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

DANIEL OKIMOTO

EDUCATION

School

North Lake Metro
1201 Peach Tree Ave., Atlanta, GA 30305
Public Magnet

Senior Year Courses

First Trimester	Second Trimester	Third Trimester
ENG – AP Language and Composition – (AP)	ENG – AP Language and Composition – (AP)	ENG – AP Language and Composition – (AP)
HIST – Civil War and Reconst. – (H)	HIST – Civil War and Reconst – (H)	HIST – Civil War and Reconst – (H)
MATH – Linear Algebra – (H)	MATH – Linear Algebra – (H)	MATH – Linear Algebra – (H)
HIST – Ethical Systems – (C Prep)	HIST – Ethical Systems – (C Prep)	HIST – Ethical Systems – (C Prep)
LANG – AP Japanese – (AP)	LANG – AP Japanese – (AP)	LANG – AP Japanese – (AP)
OTH/ELE -	OTH/ELE – Internship – (N/A)	OTH/ELE – Internship – (N/A)

Testing

SAT 5/07/2025
EBRW: 660
Math: 770

AP Exams
US History 05/2025: 4
English Language & Composition 05/2026:

Honors and Awards

North Lake Metro Book Award	School	10, 11
Atlanta Youth Poet Laureate	State/Regional	11
Lambda Legal Oratory Prize	National	11
Georgia State Speech and Debate MVP	State	12

DANIEL OKIMOTO

Future Plans

Prospective Major(s)	History/Political Science
Career Interests	Attorney or Judge, Law

DANIEL OKIMOTO

ACTIVITIES

Art
10, 11, 12 Year
5 hw 50 wy, Continue

Self-published graphic novelist, Sidecar Productions
I have created 3 graphic novellas that recount specific historical moments from the point of view of my main character, Sidecar.

Cultural
11
3 hw 45 wy, Continue

Youth Ambassador, Atlanta History Center
Chosen for a one-year internship that focuses on curation and public history events.

Cultural
12
6 hw 48 wy, Continue

Junior Interpreters, Atlanta History Center
Trained to assist with exhibitions of living history. Responsibilities include role playing, archival research and project presentation.

Academic
12
2 hw 52wy, Continue

Atlanta Youth Poet Laureate
Selected from a cohort of poet fellows. I will read my poetry at The Fox Theatre in downtown Atlanta in June and publish a book of my poetry.

Debate/Speech
10, 11, 12
5 hw 40 wy, Continue

Lincoln-Douglas Debate, North Lake Metro Speech and Debate
Trained in Lincoln-Douglas and specializing in Original Oratory (OO); earned first place (OO) and second place (L-D) at most recent Georgia State Competition.

Leadership
11, 12
40 hw 4 wy, Continue

GLSEN's National Advisory Board
Promote awareness of challenges queer youth face. Lobby superintendents and elected officials (local and national) on access to school, housing and health.

Art
11, 12
1 hw 30 wy, Continue

North Lake Metro Literary Magazine
Staff member responsible for promoting readership and soliciting contributions, as well as editing pieces. My own work has been included twice.

Academic
10, 11, 12
2 hw 30wy, Continue

North Lake Math Club
To further challenge myself academically, I joined the school's math club. Collaboratively solve difficult problems, compete at regional events. Voted MVP in 11.

DANIEL OKIMOTO

WRITING

Personal Essay

Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

The arms of the chair sloped into a subtle dip where his elbows, wrinkled like dried apricots, had rested for so many Sundays. I no longer fit in Jiichan's lap, but I still maintained my place beside him, these Sunday morning visits made all the more precious by portents of his demise and my departure for college. As a child I looked forward to taking my rightful place in his lap where I would furiously scan his Japanese newspaper struggling to identify the few kanji I knew, curious about everything I didn't know about him and his world. "Jiichan, kore nani?" Without fail, he would grunt a one-word answer, a smile barely registering on his face. I felt such satisfaction then, despite the sparsity of his replies. Our bond transcended language.

Long after my grandmother passed away, my grandfather lived alone and independently. Every time my parents raised concerns for his well-being, he would change the topic to some weather event, or he would retell a story about his years attending college in Japan and meeting my grandmother shortly after she arrived on a Fulbright Exchange. My mother says that he never wanted to be a bother so he limited his visits to Sundays when he would show up, exactly at 9:00, and take his place in the living room chair my mother inherited from my grandmother. My mother loved to sit in it with her and read stories. When my grandmother died, my mother asked to keep it. I think my grandfather visited more than just us on Sunday mornings.

Last year, my grandfather suffered a stroke. "A minor one," my parents told me, but the doctor said it would likely happen again. For four Sundays that October he was unable to visit, but he finally agreed to let us visit him once he was home from the hospital. Every other day my mother drove him to his physical therapy appointments. I wanted to join them when I could, but my mother told me that I must respect his wishes and stay at home. When he did finally return to his regular Sunday visits, we all pretended that nothing was different. But 9:00 stretched to 9:53 or even a few minutes past 10:00. Without comment I would meet him at the door and follow him to his chair. I busied myself with folding his Japanese newspaper as I had always done, smoothing out imagined creases, while he slowly negotiated sitting down.

Recently, instead of swatting away my bothersome questions about what he was reading and whether the news of life in Tokyo had changed much since he was last there–this was our game–he firmly laid his hand on my forearm and told me in his mix of Japanese and English that I would be going off to college next year.

"Jiichan, I know that." He smiled. "If I had not gone to college in Japan, then I wouldn't have met your grandmother. He winked, "Who knows, grandson, maybe you'll meet your wife there. But I guess you're too young to think of that." "I guess so," I chuckled awkwardly, swallowing the bad taste in my mouth.

There is so much about my grandfather's life that I want for myself. His wisdom and concentration, his love of family and devotion to his spouse, even his stubborn independence. My love for my grandfather runs deep, but I cannot be grandson. I see the grimace of my parents when he calls me this, but they don't need to worry. In the same way that he cannot tell me things about himself and his past, I couldn't tell him about me and don't even feel like I need to. Maybe we both understand this about each other.

TRANSCRIPT

NORTH LAKE METRO

1201 Peach Tree Avenue

Atlanta, GA 30307

Transcript for DANIEL OKIMOTO

Cumulative GPA (unweighted): 3.57

YEAR	COURSE	Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3
9	Literature and Self Knowledge	B	B-	B
9	Roots of Western Civilization	B-	B+	B+
9	Biology	B-	B-	B
9	Pre-Calculus	B+	A-	A
9	French I	B	B	B+
9	Beginning Acting	B+		
9	Digital Art		A	
9	Drawing			A-
9	PE	B+	A-	B+
10	Modern Literature	A-	A-	A-
10	Modern World History	A	A	A
10	Chemistry	A	B+	A-
10	AP Calculus AB	A	A	A
10	Graphic Novel	A		
10	Photography		A	
10	Film Studies			A
10	PE	B+	A	A
11	American Literature	A	A	A
11	AP US History	A	A	A
11	Physics (H)	A	A	A
11	AP Calculus BC	A	A	A
11	Japanese 4	A	A	A
11	Creative Writing	A	A	A
12	AP Language and Comp	A-		
12	Civil War and Reconstruction (H)	B+		
12	Linear Algebra (H)	A		
12	AP Japanese Lang and Culture	A-		
12	Ethics	A		
12	Internship	IP		

This transcript is unofficial unless embossed with the official school seal. All letter grades on this transcript, except Physical Education, are used in the calculation of the unweighted GPA. The weighted GPA is calculated by adding one point for AP and Honors courses that are marked with an asterisk (*). Also, a “+” or a “-” does not affect the GPA.

Secondary School Report (SSR) – Part 1

Student: **Daniel Okimoto DOB 10/15/2008**

School: **North Lake Metro**

Counselor Details

Name, e-mail, phone William C. Martin, wcm@nlm.georgia.edu, (402) 555-4554 – direct line

Written Evaluation

Relationship to applicant School Counselor

How long have you known this applicant? Four years

Rank, GPA, and strength of curriculum for Daniel (Z) Okimoto

Rank: NLM does not Rank

GPA: Unweighted: 3.57

Curriculum Rigor

- ☐ Most Demanding
- ■ Very Demanding
- ☐ Demanding
- ☐ Average

Please rate the applicant – Daniel (Z) Okimoto – in the following areas:

No Basis		Below Average	Average	Good (above average)	Very Good (well above average)	Excellent (top 10%)	Outstanding (top 5%)	Top Few (top 1%)
	Academic Achievement							
	Extracurricular Accomplishments							
	Personal qualities and character							
	OVERALL							

I recommend this student:

No basis
With reservation
Fairly Strongly
Strongly
Enthusiastically

Secondary School Report – Part 2

Letter of Recommendation

Dear Admissions Committee,

Resourceful, diligent, and perceptive, Z Okimoto approaches their life and work with the attunement and patient dedication of an artist and the skepticism of a scientist (Z's legal name is Daniel Okimoto, and they use they/them pronouns). Z's work matters to them, not so much for its ends but rather for what it means on a personal level, a chance to know something well or to work out an elegant solution after studied practice. Z accomplishes much as a learner, their curiosity and interest finding expression across the curriculum. Z's enthusiasm makes them an especially welcome presence in a classroom or small group undertaking.

Z engages a subject deeply, often seeing the nuance in a topic. This is especially true in the area of math where Z has advanced beyond AP Calculus BC to a course in Linear Algebra—the Math department chair offered to teach this as an extra course to Z and two other students. Z is a mature learner and as such often takes the risk of investing personally. To that end, guided by intellectual curiosity, a penchant for the humanities and aesthetic sensibilities that extend to math and design, they have undertaken a rigorous curriculum which builds on certain throughlines: the power of storytelling and historical accuracy, the importance of well-conceived design and the language of math and physics. Z's senior year schedule, with AP courses in English and Japanese, and the advanced math course, is the best expression of their particular interests. Z needs little, if any, prompting now to manage a busy schedule, but that wasn't always so. After a difficult freshman year during which Z struggled with motivation and absenteeism, they successfully reset their focus by sophomore year. Despite Z's challenges freshman year, with incisive guidance from their advisor and Precalculus teacher (a person Z has the greatest respect for), they finished the year on much firmer footing.

Being present in what they do is Z's signature quality as a learner. Their Honors English teacher wrote of Z's perceptive reading comprehension and detailed narratives. "In class they continued to show exemplary investment, listening well and frequently sharing a brilliant observation. Z writes compelling fiction when given the chance. Since sophomore year, they have been a regular contributor to our quarterly literary magazine, even serving as a staff member. In fact, I'm told it was their great fundraising idea to publish student written haikus on t-shirts and promote them as holiday gifts. During the bleakest period of remote learning, knowing this group of staff members and writers continued to meet a production deadline inspired us all.

Beyond the classroom, Z exercises their voice, most notably through speech and debate, as well as the tremendous honor of being named Atlanta Youth Poet Laureate in 11th grade. North Lake Metro, although it's a relatively new magnet school, has quickly earned a place of respect in the state system of competitive speech and debate, in large part because of participants like Z. When asked about the success of our program, Z credited the older students who "taught me to curate an argument, develop it and give it heft. I was too ready as an impulsive and rather angry ninth grader to behead my opponents. Now I'm the one to try to pass along to my younger teammates some basic respect for listening carefully to the opposing points of view and responding point by point."

There really is more I could say about Z, but let me close with the simple declaration that they are a talented, ambitious student who knows their capacity to do good work. I predict that they will add significantly to the college community lucky enough to get them.

Sincerely,

William C. Martin, M.A.

College Counselor

TEACHER - Letter of Recommendation

RECOMMENDATION FOR: **Daniel (Z) Okimoto**

It's been my pleasure to be Z's teacher twice in their high school career – Roots of Western Civilization while they were in ninth grade and AP U.S. History while they were in eleventh grade. I feel lucky to have witnessed their growth as a student and as a person.

As a ninth grader, Z demonstrated terrific curiosity and asked excellent questions. They regularly challenged assumptions and occasionally questioned the conclusions others drew. Sometimes they did so respectfully, and sometimes not. At times, I saw Z lose their stride or simply forget to submit work. Let's just say that Z had their share of stormy days freshman year. Consistently, though, no matter the weather, Z presented as an independent thinker, demonstrating age-appropriate skills of critical inquiry and argumentation. Looking back, I realize that I was seeing intellectual and character traits that I would come to admire in Z as a student of AP US History.

What a treat it was to see how far Z had come along since grade 9. They were unflagging in their embrace of the course format! This course comes with a heavy reading load. I'm impressed when my students appear to keep up with it all. Z did that and more; with every unit, I publish related readings and other resources that approach topics through the lens of the arts of the time, or through cultural artifacts that range from product advertisements to patent applications to obituaries. Z would often refer to these when they talked with me about the job of the historian. Judging by their performance on DBQs, it was obvious to me that Z had begun to master the ability to evaluate these artifacts within the historical context. Z's ability to write persuasive and impeccably well-reasoned arguments grew remarkably over time. It came as no surprise to me that Z was one of only three students in the course to earn a score of 5 on the AP exam.

I have the greatest confidence that Z will perform well in college, especially in a setting that allows for discussion and collaboration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Respectfully,

Nancy Carney
North Lake Metro History Department

School Profile
North Lake Metro
1201 Peach Tree Avenue
Atlanta, GA 30305

North Lake Metro is a magnet school in Atlanta, Georgia, with a career and college preparatory focus. Every student must complete at least one internship. Slightly over 91% of the graduating students in last year's senior class have enrolled at four‑year colleges with an average of 87% over the last five years. Total enrollment is 1500 students, grades 9-12. Current senior class 321. Traditional bell schedule with 7 periods a day. Trimesters of 14 weeks each.

Demographic Information
Percentage of graduating class:
attending 2-year college—8%
attending 4-year college—90%
Hispanic or Latinx—10%
American Indian or Alaska Native—5%
Asian—15%
Black or African American—40%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander—0%
White—30%
first-generation college—30%
US citizens—80%
non-US citizens—20%
receive free or reduced lunch—40%

Curriculum
Curriculum offered: Honors courses offered in Math, Science, and History. 14 Advanced Placement classes – AP English Language, AP English Literature, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, AP Statistics, AP French, AP Japanese, AP Spanish, AP US History, AP Physics C: Mechanics, AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Computer Science A. *Juniors and Seniors may take AP courses if they meet the prerequisites of the respective department. Sophomores may take an AP course only with the written consent of the instructor and the approval of the department chair.*
Students must earn minimum* of 24 credits in the following areas to meet the Georgia Department of Education requirements to earn a diploma.

English: 4 units
Math: 4 units
Science: 4 units
Social Studies: 3 units
World Language: 3 units
Art: 1 unit
Physical Education and Health: 1 unit
Electives: 4 units

*North Lake Metro students are encouraged to work beyond these requirements.

GPA
Grade Point Average is calculated on a 4.0 scale, unweighted. Passing mark is 65. Highest GPA in class is 4.0.

Class Rank
North Lake Metro does not rank its students.