Profile

Personal information

Name	Norris, Alicia Louise
Share different name	No
Birthdate	02/07/2006

Contact details

Email, Phone	norrisalicia1907@gmail.com, +1.913-989-4678, Mobile, No other telephone
Permanent address	14604 Outlook St Overland Park, KS, 66223-2675, USA

Demographics

Gender Identity	Female
Sex	Female
Pronouns	She/Her
Military status	None

Language

English	First Language, Speak, Read, Write, Spoken at Home
Spanish	Speak, Read, Write

Geography and nationality

Citizenship status	U.S. citizen or U.S. national
Birthplace	Overland Park, Kansas, United States of America 17 years US

Common App fee waiver

Fee waiver requested No

Family

Household

Parents	Married
Home	Both Parents

Parent 1

Mother

Name	Mrs. Louise A Norris
Occupation	Social, welfare, or recreation worker, Employed,
Education	Graduated from college/university Bachelors (1993), Kansas State University, 119 Anderson Hall, Manhattan, KS, USA, CEEB: 6334

Parent 2

Father

Name	Mr. Jack Norris
Occupation	Writer or journalist, Employed,
Education	Some college/university No degree, Kansas State University: Salina, 2310 Centennial Rd, Salina, KS, USA, CEEB: 1172

Siblings

Sallie Norris, Age 21

Education

Current or most recent secondary school

Pembroke Hill School, 5121 State Line Rd, Kansas City, MO, USA, Independent, CEEB: 261715 (08/2020 - 06/2024)

Progression	No change in progression
Graduation Date	06/2024

Colleges & universities

Grades

Rank	na / 104
GPA	4.3 / 4, Weighted

Current or most recent year courses

First semester	Second semester
ENG - AP English Literature - (AP)	ENG - AP English Literature - (AP)
CALC - AP Calculus AB - (AP)	CALC - AP Calculus AB - (AP)
HIST - AP US Government and Politics - (AP)	HIST - AP US Government and Politics - (AP)
LANG - AP Spanish Language - (AP)	LANG - AP Spanish Language - (AP)
ENG - Modern Dramatic Literature - (C PREP)	
ART - Honors Chorus - (C PREP)	ART - Honors Chorus - (C PREP)

Honors

AP Scholar	National	11, 12
Spanish Seal of Biliteracy	School, State/Regional, National	11, 12
National Honor Society	School, National	11, 12

Future plans

Writer or journalist, Masters

Testing

AP Subject Tests

United States History	4	05/2023
Spanish Language & Culture		05/2024
Government & Politics: United States		05/2024
English Literature & Composition		05/2024
Calculus AB		05/2024

Activities

Other Club/Activity

9, 10, 11, 12
School
4 hr/wk, 7 wk/yr
Continue

Member, Pembroke Hill Honor Council
The Honor Council ensures that no student receives an unfair advantage over any other. We also help students learn and reflect on their mistakes.

Athletics: JV/Varsity

10, 11, 12
School
15 hr/wk, 15 wk/yr
Continue

Tennis, Co-Captain (12)/Varsity Player (11 -12), JV (10), Pembroke Hill Tennis Team
As captains, we work to create a positive atmosphere and encourage good sportsmanship for our team. We also plan events to raise team spirit.

Cultural

9, 10, 11, 12
School
3 hr/wk, 19 wk/yr
Continue

Co-Leader (12)/Member (9 - 11), Pembroke Hill Jewish Culture Club
Through this club, we connect and celebrate Jewish holidays, and we share customs and traditions with other students.

Community Service (Volunteer)

9, 10, 11, 12
School, Break
2 hr/wk, 15 wk/yr
Continue

Volunteer, Literacy KC
I help collect and package school supplies for lower income schools in Kansas. I also help kids strengthen their reading skills in the summer.

Work (Paid)

9, 10, 11, 12
Year
12 hr/wk, 25 wk/yr
Continue

Tennis Coach, Overland Park Tennis Academy
Every week, I teach kids how to play tennis. I have also worked with more advanced young players on improving their game and being good sports.

Work (Paid)

9, 10, 11, 12
Year
5 hr/wk, 20 wk/yr
Continue

Babysitting
Several families rely on me as a babysitter, including a single mom and a family with four children.

Community Service (Volunteer)

11, 12
School
4 hr/wk, 5 wk/yr
Continue

Volunteer, Habitat for Humanity
I help build houses and create housewarming gifts for those in need in my community.

Community Service (Volunteer)

11, 12
School
2 hr/wk, 12 wk/yr
Continue

Buddy, Pembroke Hill Lower School Buddies
Pembroke Hill is a preschool through grade 12 school, and I have mentored a second grader during my junior and senior years.

Writing

Personal essay

The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?

Looking back, the aging roller skating rink is rotting, ill-lit, and smells of body odor. To six-year-old me though, this place feels like *heaven*. The shiny disco ball reminds me of my favorite movies, and I sing all the words to Journey's "Don't Stop Believing" as I observe the skaters in the rink. I love the vibrant atmosphere and the stale buttery popcorn, but one problem arises: I don't know how to roller skate. While I can hold on to the walls for dear life, praying not to make a fool of myself, I would much rather stay on the safe and somehow familiar, fluorescent carpet. This all changes, however, when an animated voice announces a limbo contest. I jump with excitement and tell my parents that I *will* win this contest. They look at each other dubiously as I cannot skate without falling. They explain that mainly older kids participate, but I have my mission: to be the last one limboing. I half-skate, half-stumble to the center of the rink. The other competitors look like giants, several even have beards; however, I am not intimidated. I skate under the first bar with ease-my tiny stature helps. The worker then lowers the bar, and knots form in my stomach. My nerves increase, and my palms become sweaty, but I refuse to let my doubts stop me. Unfortunately, gravity does. I wipe out. Instead of crying or feeling disappointed, I feel determined to win the next contest.

Almost ten years later, as a freshman, I wipe out once again. After four days of tennis tryouts in the scorching sun, the high school tennis coach calls me over and cuts me from the team. This is the second straight year I hear words that to me sound like: "you are not and will never be good enough." On the tear-filled ride home, my father tells me that Michael Jordan was cut from his high school basketball team. I stare at my dad with disbelief, certain that he invented this story. After completing my own research, I find the story to be true. Later that night, after more tears (and multiple scoops of ice cream), I decide not to quit. I go to the very coach who cut me and ask her to help transform my game. I attend practices every day after school and on the weekend-some of them at six in the morning. The sound of a tennis ball hitting the sweet spot of my racket drowns out the little voice echoing in my head: "you will never be good enough." Once I set a goal, I never stop. I play on the JV team my sophomore year. I make varsity the next year and am selected as an all-conference player.

At first, I feel embarrassed when my parents recount the story of me getting cut from the tennis team two years in a row. I now realize that the story is not about failure but the determination that always motivates me to work tirelessly to accomplish my goals. Playing on my high school team is not what makes me most proud. Instead, it is the joy of working with mentors to grow, taking feedback no matter how forthright, and refusing to let doubts or adversity stand in my way. While I have dramatically

changed since I was 6 years old, in many ways I am still that little girl on skates who fearlessly embraces new challenges with an optimistic and tenacious mindset. However, I still cannot skate.

Additional information

My proudest high school achievement was receiving the Daniel Nestor Award from Pembroke Hill School. Daniel was a beloved student at my school. Everybody - students, teachers, and others in the community - admired him for his kindness, compassion, and ability to see the best in everyone. In honor of Daniel, the school and his family created an award to recognize two Pembroke Hill juniors every year who exemplify his spirit and empathy. While I am very proud of my academic and athletic achievements, this award means more to me than anything. I've never met Daniel; however, I hope to carry on his legacy of spreading kindness and optimism.

Education progression

Details

Education progression details	No change in progression

Euphoria University questions

General

Student status	Full-Time
Preferred start term	Fall 2024
Admission plan	Regular Decision
Preferred residence	On Campus
Preferred testing plan	Please do not include ACT/SAT as part of my application
Financial aid	Yes

Academics

College of Interest	College of Arts & Sciences
Major of Interest	Journalism - News Track
Pre-Professional Interest	Not Applicable

Contacts

Previously applied	No
Contact 1	Virtual Tour, 10/2023
Contact 2	Alumni, Isabelle Wilson, 2019
Would you like to receive text messages from Euphoria University Undergraduate Admissions?	I consent to be contacted by Euphoria University at the mobile phone number provided below.
Mobile Phone Number:	+1.913-989-4678

Family

Sibling applied	No
Have any parents or guardians ever worked for Euphoria University?	No

Writing

Why have you decided to apply to Euphoria University?

My love for Euphoria University began with the social media manager at my school, Isabelle Wilson. She graduated in 2019 and dazzled with me stories about Euphoria. Shortly after I talked with her, I took a virtual tour of campus. During the tour, I was excited to learn about the new building for Communications and Journalism and to imagine the classes I would be able to take and the faculty I would learn from. The state-of-the-art facilities showcased during the virtual tour confirmed Ms. Wilson's statement to me that Euphoria University is committed to providing an outstanding education in my chosen field.

When Mrs. Blankenship from admissions visited my school, I heard more about the many opportunities available to me at Euphoria. There are so many activities and traditions that I would love to participate in, such as the Old Gold & Blue and Euphoria Spring Fling.

I've long known that I want to study abroad while in college and Euphoria offers one of the best programs in the country. During Mrs. Blankenship's visit, I learned that the university offers a study abroad program in Granada, Spain, led by a Euphoria faculty member, which would allow me to progress in Spanish fluency.

Euphoria University encompasses all the elements I seek in a college – cutting-edge facilities, a vibrant community, and an exceptional study abroad program. I am confident that attending Euphoria University will provide me with a top-notch education and prepare me to make a positive impact on the world.

Have you ever been found responsible for a disciplinary violation at any educational institution from the 9th grade forward, whether related to academic or behavioral misconduct?	No
Are you facing any pending charges, or have you ever been adjudicated guilty or convicted of a misdemeanor, felony, or other crime?	No

Affirmations

By submitting this application, I affirm my understanding of and agreement to the statements found here: http://www.commonapp.org/affirmations.



PEMBROKE HILL SCHOOL

5121 State Line Road
Kansas City, MO 64112
816-936-1200 (phone)
816-936-1429 (fax)
www.pembrokehill.org
College Board/ACT Code: 261715

School Contacts

David Burke
Director of College Counseling
816-936-1438
dburke@pembrokehill.org

Lydia Dagenais
College Counselor/Director of Testing
816-936-1437
ldagenais@pembrokehill.org

Tom Medlock
College Counselor
816-936-1458
tmedlock@pembrokehill.org

Oya Nuzumlali Schooley
College Counselor
816-936-1432
oschooley@pembrokehill.org

Tammy Pottenger
College Counselor
816-936-1471
tpottenger@pembrokehill.org

Brad Shelley
Head of School

Mike Hill
Upper School Division Head

School Profile 2022-23

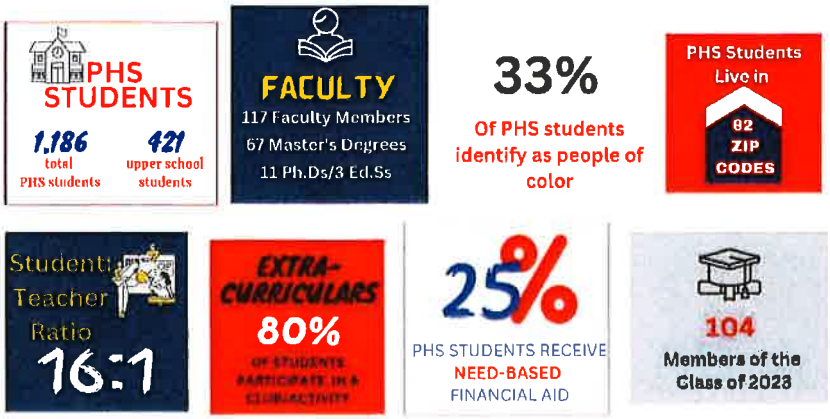
Pembroke Hill School is an independent, coeducational, college preparatory day school serving students age 2 through grade 12. Created by the 1984 merger of the all-girls Sunset Hill School (1913) and the all-boys Pembroke-Country Day School (1910), Pembroke Hill is located on two campuses, less than a mile apart.

The Pembroke Hill experience is based on the concept that education of young people is society's most important act. Great value must be placed on children and their individual growth by providing challenging and meaningful educational experiences that shape the whole child. This is reflected in the school's mission statement: *Together, cultivating the best in each, for the benefit of all,* and the core values of respect, compassion, scholarship and integrity.

Accreditation
Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS)

Memberships
Association of College Counselors Independent Schools (ACCIS) Founding Member
National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS)
National Association of College Admissions Counseling (NACAC)
The College Board
Global Online Academy

Students develop critical thinking skills through discussion, debate and the study of all types of topics along with participation in a multitude of activities representing academics, arts and athletics. Pembroke Hill's goal is to **teach students how to think, not what to think.**



Graduation Requirements

Discipline	Units
English	4
Mathematics	3
Science	3
Social Studies	3
World Languages	3
Electives	2
Fine Arts	2
PE	1.5
Total	**21.5**

Standardized Test Scores

(Class of 2022)

SAT

37% Class of 2022 took the SAT

1250-1470 Middle 50%

ACT

85% Class of 2022 took the ACT

26-33 Middle 50%

AP Scores - May 2022

75% of students received a score of 3 or above in at least one AP exam.

67% of scores were 3 or above.

40% of scores were 4 or 5.

College Board Honors

(Class of 2023)

National Merit

Semifinalists	11
Commended	5
% of Class	15
African American Recognition Scholars	4
Hispanic Recognition Scholars	3

Impact of COVID-19

2022-23: Classes and activities are in-person (no virtual option).

2021-22: All students learned in-person (no virtual option).

2020-21: School was open full time with a regular schedule; 95% students were learning in-person. Extracurriculars took place, but were curtailed.

2019-20: 4th quarter classes were moved to a virtual format. All extracurriculars were canceled.

Grade Distribution - Class of 2023

For select courses taken in the 2021-22 school year

Subject	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F	Total
Required Courses for Juniors														
AP US History/Amer. Civ. History*	18	25	21	8	11	7	6	4	0	0	2	1	1	104
Amer. Civ. English	21	28	10	8	10	11	0	3	3	3	3	3	0	103
Math														
AP Calculus BC	19	10	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32
AP Calculus AB	4	8	3	6	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
Pre-Calculus Acc.	14	15	10	6	6	4	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	59
Calculus	1	5	8	4	6	5	3	1	3	2	0	0	0	38
Pre-Calculus	5	14	8	5	7	4	3	4	1	0	0	2	0	53
Algebra II	1	8	6	6	6	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	34
Diff. Equations +	2	12	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
Multivariable Calc +	12	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
Science														
AP Physics I	1	16	6	4	4	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	34
Physics	11	5	8	5	5	4	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	44
AP Chemistry	3	10	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
Chemistry Accel.	6	12	7	6	8	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	44
Chemistry	4	9	13	6	17	5	5	3	1	0	0	0	1	64
AP Biology	5	7	6	5	2	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	31
Human Physiology +	13	17	9	5	12	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	59
Language														
French IV	0	5	6	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
Latin IV	3	0	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	10
Spanish IV Accel.	4	8	3	5	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28
Spanish IV	0	0	2	1	3	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	11
Mandarin Chin. IV	2	0	3	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
AP Spanish	0	8	2	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
Electives														
AP Art History	8	4	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	14
AP Computer Sci.	3	3	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Intro Python: Blo +	12	4	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22

* Students who do the extra work required for the AP US History curriculum are awarded the AP US History designation on their transcripts.

\+ One-semester courses

CURRICULUM NOTES

13 Accelerated/Honors courses:

Accelerated full-year courses:
- Algebra II
- Biology
- Geometry
- Pre-Calculus
- Chemistry
- Spanish IV

Advanced courses:
- Multivariable Calculus III
- Differential Equations
- Number Theory
- Probability & Counting
- 2 Spanish Electives
- French Conversation

Note: All year-long Pembroke Hill science courses include a laboratory.

18 Advanced Placement (AP) courses:
- English Literature
- Art & Design (not offered in 21-22)
- Art History
- Computer Science A
- Chinese
- French
- Latin
- Spanish
- Calculus AB and BC
- Statistics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics 1
- Environmental Science
- U.S. History
- Economics (Macro and Micro)
- U.S. Government and Politics

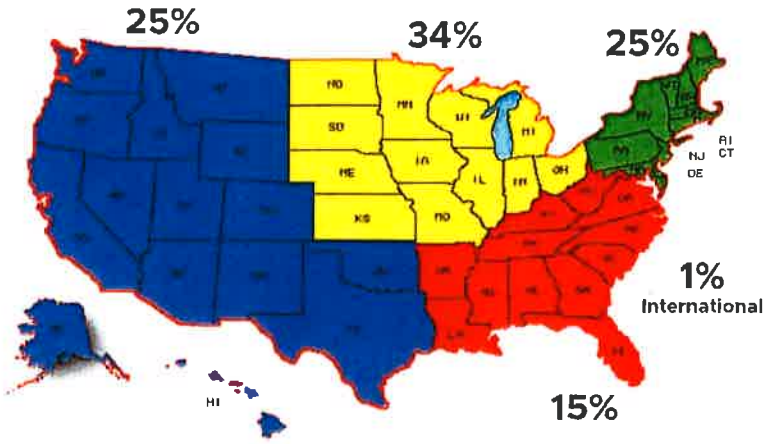
Typically, students may not enroll in AP courses until junior year.

College Matriculations - Classes of 2018-2022

One-hundred percent of students pursue a 4-year college degree. For the classes of 2018-2022 (average class size is 104), two or more students have matriculated at the following:

American University .. 2
Amherst College. .. 3
Arizona State University .. 7
Barnard College .. 3
Baylor University .. 2
Boston College .. 8
Boston University .. 3
Brown University .. 4
Carleton College .. 6
Carnegie Mellon University .. 5
Case Western Reserve University .. 4
College of Charleston. .. 2
Colorado College .. 2
Colorado School of Mines .. 2
Columbia College Chicago .. 2
Columbia University. .. 4
Cornell University .. 7
Creighton University .. 4
Dartmouth College .. 9
Davidson College .. 2
Denison University .. 3
Emory University .. 4
Furman University. .. 2
George Washington University .. 2
Georgetown University. .. 2
Harvard University .. 3
Harvey Mudd College .. 2
Indiana University, Bloomington .. 5
Johns Hopkins University .. 3
Kansas State University .. 3
Lake Forest College. .. 2
Loyola Marymount University .. 4
Loyola University Chicago .. 5
Macalester College .. 3
Massachusetts Institute of Tech. .. 3
Miami University, Oxford .. 7
Middlebury College .. 2
Missouri U of Science and Tech. .. 2
New York University .. 4
North Carolina State University .. 2
Northeastern University .. 6
Northwestern University .. 4
Oberlin College .. 2
Occidental College .. 2
Pomona College. .. 3
Princeton University .. 3
Purdue University .. 2
Rhodes College .. 2
Rice University. .. 2
Rockhurst University .. 2
Saint Louis University. .. 3
Santa Clara University .. 7
Scripps College .. 3
Sewanee: The U. of the South. .. 2
Skidmore College .. 2
Southern Methodist University .. 9
St. Olaf College .. 2
Stanford University .. 5
Stevens Institute of Technology .. 2
Swarthmore College .. 2
Syracuse University. .. 4
Texas A&M University .. 3
Texas Christian University .. 12
Tufts University .. 3
Tulane University .. 7
University of Alabama .. 4
University of Arizona .. 2
University of Arkansas .. 4
University of California, Berkeley .. 2
University of Chicago. .. 4
University of Colorado Boulder .. 8
University of Denver .. 10
University of Kansas .. 41
University of Miami .. 9
University of Michigan .. 6
University of Missouri, Columbia .. 13
University of Missouri, KC .. 12
University of Nebraska, Lincoln .. 2
University of Notre Dame .. 4
University of Pennsylvania .. 4
University of Richmond .. 6
University of San Diego .. 5
University of South Carolina .. 2
University of Southern California .. 15
University of St Andrews. .. 4
The University of Texas at Austin .. 3
University of Virginia .. 4
University of Washington, Seattle .. 2
University of Wisconsin, Madison .. 3
Vanderbilt University .. 4
Vassar College. .. 2
Villanova University. .. 3
Wake Forest University .. 4
Washington and Lee University .. 4
Washington U. in St. Louis .. 9
Wesleyan University .. 3
Yale University. .. 5

Classes of 2018-2022 College Enrollment by Region



CLASSES OF 2018-2022 COLLEGE SELECTION

167 Different colleges/ universities enrolled in

40 # of states + Washington, D.C. where enrolled

65% Enrolled in private colleges/universities

35% Enrolled in public colleges/universities

Fulbright Scholars

Within the last six years, eight Pembroke Hill alumni have received Fulbright grants in Peru, Malaysia, Austria, Luxembourg, Germany and Spain.

Pembroke Hill seeks to fulfill its mission by recognizing that diversity, belonging, equity and inclusion are integral elements of school and community life. The mission-inspired goal is together, cultivating each to be a global thinker and valuable member of the PHS community poised to acquire the academic and life skills that make a significant difference for all.

Norris, Alicia Louise

14604 Outlook St.
Overland Park, KS 66223
Wayne, PA 19087
Birth Date: 02/07/2006
Expected graduation: 2024

Transcript

2020 - 2021 - 9 — Year GPA: 4.118

Course Name	Grade		Credits Earned
ENGLISH I	A		1.00
GEOMETRY - ACCELERATED	A-		1.00
PHYSICS I	A+		1.00
GLOBAL CIVICS	A+		1.00
CHORUS	A+		1.00
SPANISH II	A		1.00
HEALTH	A+		1.00
PE-LIFETIME WELLNESS	A		0.50
		Total cumulative	7.50

2021 - 2022 - 10 — Year GPA: 4.356

Course Name	Grade		Credits Earned
ENGLISH II	A+		1.00
ALGEBRA II - ACCELERATED	A		1.00
CHEMISTRY I	A+		0.50
WORLD HISTORY	A		1.00
COMP. GOVT. & POLITICS	A+		0.50
CHORUS	A+		1.00
SPANISH III	A-		1.00
PE-INTERNATIONAL GAMES	A+		0.50
		Total cumulative	14.00

2022 - 2023 - 11 — Year GPA: 4.435

Course Name	Grade		Credits Earned
AMERICAN CIV. ENGLISH	A+		1.00
PRECALCULUS - ACCELERATED	A-		1.00
BIOLOGY I - ACCELERATED	A		1.00
AP U.S. HISTORY	A+		1.00
GLOBAL STUDIES: ASIA	A+		0.50
CHORUS	A+		1.00
SPANISH IV ACCELERATED	A+		0.50
		Total cumulative	20.00

2023 - 2024 - 12 — Cumulative GPA: 4.300

Course Name
AP ENGLISH LITERATURE
MODERN DRAMATIC LIT.
AP CALCULUS AB
AP US GOVERNMENT & POLITICS
CHORUS
AP SPANISH LANGUAGE

Signature	Date



Counselor Recommendation for Alicia Louise Norris

During the Upper School Awards program this past May, Alicia Norris received the Daniel Nestor Memorial Award, which was created to celebrate a Pembroke Hill School junior who lost his life the summer of 2016. What is so important about the award is that it is centered on character. Since my very first meeting with Alicia, I was impressed with her care and concern for others as well as her positive attitude and constant introspection. She approaches her work and extracurricular involvement with purpose and passion and is always looking to learn and grow from her experiences with the intention of doing good in the world.

Alicia's AP Spanish teacher writes, "Alicia always comes to class well prepared and she takes notes and absorbs every new idea or word that comes up in our discussions and makes an effort to incorporate them whenever she speaks and writes." Last year, Alicia earned the Spanish Seal of Biliteracy. She is the "sit on your edge" kind of student who enjoys the interaction with her teachers and peers. Her chorus teacher actually sums up Alicia across all disciplines when she writes, "Alicia, I ALWAYS value your talent, example, optimism, and your engaged presence at every single class." She is inclusive in everything that she does and encourages others to take that extra step to grow and thrive. Her love of learning extends to her dinner table each night as she shares ideas and connections from her day. She loves reading and writing and often bounces ideas off of her father who is an accomplished journalist. "My favorite characteristic about Alicia is her constant passion to improve," notes her AP English Literature teacher. As a senior, Alicia is excited about her schedule as it includes all of the subject areas she loves most.

Alicia's strong character has also earned her a seat on the Honor Council since her ninth-grade year. She is instrumental in deciding on meaningful sanctions when students break the honor code at Pembroke Hill. She is thoughtful and articulate as she discusses cases with her Honor Council peers. Students and faculty vote on the council which makes it an even greater honor when a student is selected. In addition to playing tennis for Pembroke Hill and outside of school and instructing young tennis players during the summer, Alicia spends a great deal of time volunteering for various organizations. One that is very important to her is Literacy KC, a summer reading enrichment program for elementary school students from fragile communities in Kansas City. Alicia has volunteered consistently since her ninth-grade year. Fortunate is the school that gets Alicia Norris, and I am thrilled and honored to recommend her as she will be a bright spot on your campus in and out of the classroom.

Pembroke Hill College Counseling Staff



TEACHER RECOMMENDATION FOR ALICIA NORRIS

I opened my front door to a sweet, smiling, and clearly timid 6th grader. Her mother won a jewelry lesson from me (as part of our school auction where teachers donate their talents to the community), and she dropped her daughter Alicia off for a one-hour lesson. In just one hour, I could see that this young lady possessed kindness, confidence, and a desire to succeed at everything she touched.

Fast forward to sophomore year, and Alicia Norris sat bright-eyed in my English II class. She didn't start out as a particularly gifted writer, but she did strike me as incredibly self-motivated and as someone who ultimately sought to improve in every way possible. In addition, I appreciated that Alicia would ask me about my past weekend, the progress of my day, or upcoming events in my life. Through this extension of warmth, we got to know each other far beyond the student to teacher relationship. Alicia's work ethic led to her emerging as one of my strongest students amongst two sections of the class that year.

The following year, Alicia graced my American Civilization class. In just one year, her writing did reveal far stronger skills–which impressed me since it wasn't natural talent but rather an asset that is difficult to come by as it must be developed through time and patience–and I always looked forward to reading her essays. I find that students who are highly academic combined with a people-pleasing personality tend to avoid taking risks in their writing, but Alicia decided to push her limits. This willingness to take risks led to more creative detail in her writing, and she wrote a wonderfully witty piece.

Most impressive to me, though, is that everything this young woman does is fueled by good intention; in fact, if we go back to the age-old question of whether or not altruism can truly exist in humans, she's the best evidence for the answer of "**yes.**" As the ultimate proof of this, I nominated Alicia–as I am sure numerous faculty did–for the Daniel Nestor Memorial award last year.

Since she'd taken both classes I teach, I thought my daily interaction with Alicia would end this year; however, I took on the role of assistant coach of the Girls' Varsity Tennis team, and Alicia is one of the senior captains. Prior to school starting, we took the team to a tournament for a weekend. The visual I took away from this incredible weekend was of Alicia getting beaten in the match yet subtly applauding her opponent's great shots. She's an accomplished player with a fierce competitive spirit, yet she can roll with being humbled and still possess the grace to give accolades to the person across the net.

Alicia will thrive in the collegiate environment while modeling class and dignity along with work ethic and gratitude. Since Alicia is an intrinsic learner who consistently pushes herself toward improvement, she will assimilate and incorporate what she learns into her daily interactions with others; additionally, she will serve as a true ambassador for your campus and continue giving back for years to come.

Margaret Wilkins
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