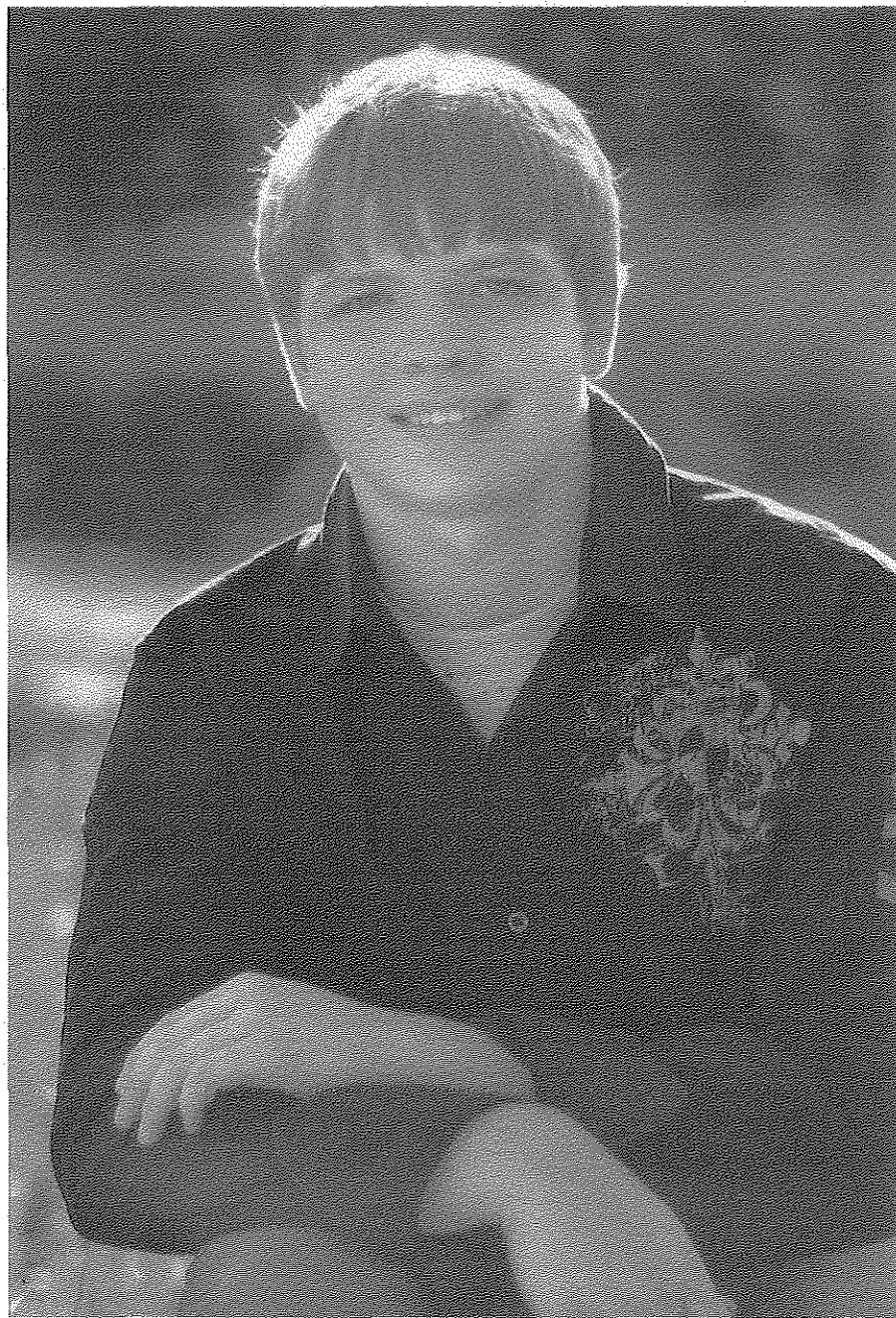


# **Debbie Jackson Memorial Scholarship**

## **2011-2012**



**Jacob Smith  
12006 N. Antelope Trail  
Parker, Colorado 80138**

## Debbie Jackson Memorial Scholarship Application

Full Name: Smith, Jacob (Jake) Alexander

Date of Birth: 09/26/1994

Gender: Male

Address: 12006 N. Antelope Trail, Parker 80138

Phone Number: (303) 653-8951

Email: jsmith8mvhs@yahoo.com

Parents: David Smith, Manager at Sustain Technologies  
Kirstin Smith, Homemaker

Siblings: Zack (19), Alec (15), Christian (14), Caleb (11), Jillian (9), Dawson (4)

High School: Mountain Vista High School

GPA (4.0 Scale): 4.19

SAT Scores: 2160 Total; 700 Math, 720 CR, 740 Writing. 2011.

SAT Subject Tests: 800 Biology, 730 Literature

ACT Scores: 30 Composite; 29 Math, 35 English, 32 Reading, 27 Science. 2011.

Job Experience:

	<u>Employer</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Years Worked</u>
	Blanche Motes	Farmhand	5 months
	Sustain Technologies, Inc.	President's Assistant	1 month
	Mary DeForest	Professor's Aide	2 years
	David Smith	Babysitter	6 years

### Extracurricular and Community Activities:

#### Extracurriculars

Spanish National Honor Society – 2010 to present. Member during 2010-2011, President 2011-2012.  
Approximately two hours per week.

Eagles' Nest Leadership Club – 2011 to present. Currently a member. One hour per week.

Math Club (Colorado Mathematics League) – 2011 to present. One hour per week.

Journalism – 2008 to 2010. Reporter sophomore and junior year. About ten hours spent per week.

National Honor Society – 2010 to present. Currently a member. I have also been on the Honor Roll the past three years. Approximately two hours spent per week.

Football – 2008. I participated on the freshman team until I broke my wrist.

Community Service

\*C.U.R.E. Kits for Kids Medical Supply Drive – October 2010 to December 2010. As President of the Spanish National Honor Society, I organized a drive to collect supplies typically found in a first aid kit. We collected over 500 healthcare items and filled 22 supply boxes. Currently, I am in charge of a similar drive at Mountain Ridge Middle School with the Junior National Honor Society.

\*Volunteer at Sky Ridge Medical Center – 2009 to present. I initially worked at the Spine and Total Joint Center waiting desk. I now volunteer on the patient floors, working directly with nurses and visiting patients. I also worked in the medical offices.

\*Volunteer at Edwards Animal Foundation – Summer 2010 to present. I help out on the Edwards' farm, which includes taking care of animals like llamas, burros and chickens. I complete miscellaneous tasks like cleaning out the barn and moving bales of hay. I have received the volunteer of the month award on two occasions.

\*Volunteer at Project Cure – Summer 2011 to present. I sorted, packaged, and loaded medical supplies for transportation to less developed countries.

\*Volunteer tutor for a fourth grade class at Arrowwood Elementary – 2007 to present. I help children with homework in subjects like English, spelling, and math, and complete miscellaneous tasks for fourth grade teachers.

\*Vacation Bible School leader – Summer 2009, 2010, and 2011. I led a group of fifth graders in learning about the Bible. I also worked at the registration desk.

\*Volunteer for Helping Hands – Summers 2008, 2009 and 2011. I renovated a "senior daycare," built a shed for an elderly woman, and landscaped a terminally ill mother's yard.

\*Colorado Humane Society – June 2007 to present. I walked and cared for the dogs and cats.

\*Denver Rescue Mission – Summer 2007. I prepared meals for the homeless.

\*Clothes for Kids – June 2009 – I sorted and packaged clothing for needy families in Douglas County.

\*Veterinary Assistant – October 2011 – I inoculated farm animals and floated horses' teeth.

I hereby certify that all information submitted on this application is true and accurate. By submitting this application, I authorize my high school and college counselors to make available information concerning my academic record.

Signature: Jill Smith Date: 2/24/12

*"The greatest use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it."*  
-William James

Another drop of blood formed on the tip of my thumb, and I had to discard yet one more needle. I just hoped Dr. Rice would not notice – but of course, he did. Showing me the correct technique this time, I attached the needle to the syringe, then picked up the bottle conveniently labeled *Rabies Vaccine*. It took me a long time – too long – to draw out 2 CCs of the orange liquid, but I did it. I watched carefully as Dr. Rice administered the vaccine I prepared. His patient barely noticed.

Now it became my turn. It did not go as well. I hit a vein (luckily, not the jugular!) and blood trickled over my hand. Reposition and try again. The thought went through my mind that maybe I should be practicing on a piece of fruit, but Dr. Rice had faith in me. This time, success, as I hit muscle and slowly emptied the syringe. My patient turned and looked at me, snorted, and searched my hands for a treat. Freckles, my family's 11 year-old horse, had unwittingly received my first vaccination.

Looking back, my desire to become a doctor – specifically, an Infectious Disease Specialist - emerged in elementary school. I participated in spelling bees and in the course of my studies, I was exposed to an inordinate number of words that described illness, my favorite being "trypanosomiasis." Quite ironically, the word that I missed in my first year at the National Spelling Bee was "piroplasmosis." Piroplasmosis is a tick-borne protozoal infection of horses. I will never forget the word, although it is unlikely I will ever encounter it in humans.

My years in the spelling bee led me to assist a professor at CU-Denver and Regis University in the making of both spelling and medical terminology programs. The medical terminology program split up as many medical terms as possible into their root words, with the intention of helping students actually understand and learn the words. Researching and editing the program taught me an incredible number of applicable medical and technical terms.

In middle school, my career choice narrowed from "doctor" to "Infectious Disease Specialist" when I started reading medical detective stories – the ones involving the Epidemic Intelligence Service of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. I recall reading a book titled *Level 4: Virus Hunters of the CDC* and becoming enthralled with what these people did for a living – searching for and eliminating potentially fatal infectious diseases. Hence, I started researching infectious illnesses and doing anything I could to gain insight into microbiology. I decided that my long-term goal would be to help people in developing countries fight against infectious diseases by not only diagnosing disease on a clinical basis, but also tracking outbreaks and attempting to stop them.

My high school years brought me the chance to volunteer – overall, I have more than 650 community service hours. Two places that I have spent time at are particularly close to my heart - Project C.U.R.E. and Sky Ridge Medical Center. For Project C.U.R.E., an organization that takes donated medical supplies and delivers them to developing countries with severe shortages, I have organized a drive at my high school to collect supplies found in a typical first-aid kit. These simple kits will be an incredible help to families that are in desperate need of a basic medicine chest. The drive certainly brought me to the realization that, if so many people can show compassion for people so far away, it can certainly be done to a higher level locally.

At Sky Ridge, I have over 200 community service hours, and I enjoy the three hours a

week I spend there chatting with and helping out patients. Being with them and having the ability to see the smiles on their faces when I fetch them something as simple as a cup of water brightens my mood and keeps me striving toward the ultimate goal of becoming an Infectious Disease Specialist. One morning, I met a woman with advanced multiple sclerosis who awaited news on whether or not she would need surgery for a gallbladder condition. With her were her mom and daughter, and they asked me earnestly if I would pray for her – so I prayed for healing and, meanwhile, felt incredibly humbled that these people I did not even know asked me to do something far beyond myself. I learned that the rewards of compassion are two-fold: the joy and hope found in caring for other people is truly magnified both ways.

As for the future, I am attending Rice University and majoring in biochemistry. Working towards a degree in biochemistry will augment my interest in the human body's inner workings and the microorganisms that at times go against its fragile chemistry. This will lead to the medical degree that will allow me to pursue the next stage of my life as a physician, researcher and missionary in South America.

I want to make a positive difference in the world through my chosen career. I want to show others love, faith and compassion. Helping just one person would be great, but helping thousands would be even better. My dream is to be a servant of the people, someone who can help those less fortunate. I hope that college and my future achievements will survive past my days on earth – and leave a positive impression on many.

## Advanced Placement Courses

Biology	Spanish Language
Chemistry	Spanish Literature
Physics C	Studio Art
Calculus AB	Psychology
Calculus BC	European History
Statistics	Human Geography
Computer Science	US History
Environmental Science	US Government
Eng Language/Composition	Art History
Eng Literature/Composition	Music Theory

## 2011 Advanced Placement Scores

Advanced Placement tests were given to 487 Mountain Vista students, with 76% of the students scoring a three or higher.

## Graduation Requirements

Each student must successfully complete a minimum of 24 credits in order to graduate from Mountain Vista High School. Students must also complete 20 hours of community service. Specific requirements are listed below:

Language Arts	4.0
Social Studies	3.0
Mathematics	3.0
Science	3.0
Practical Arts	1.0
Fine Arts	1.0
Physical Education	1.0
Electives	8.0
Community Service	20 Hours

## Standardized Test Scores

AMERICAN COLLEGE TESTS			
	MVHS	CO	NATIONAL
COMPOSITE	23.4	20.7	21.1
SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TESTS I			
	MVHS	CO	NATIONAL
READING	592	570	497
MATH	610	573	514
WRITING	571	556	489

## Marking System

Grade	Percent	Points	Advanced Placement
A	90 - 100	4.00	5.00
B	80 - 89	3.00	4.00
C	70 - 79	2.00	3.00
D	60 - 69	1.00	1.00

All courses, which receive a letter grade, are calculated into the grade point average. Advanced Placement weighted grades are computed into the student's GPA and rank in their class.

## National Merit Program

MVHS Class of 2011 was honored to have four National Merit Finalists and nine commended scholars. The Class of 2012 has three students who are competing for finalist recognition and seven commended scholars.

## Graduates

Mountain Vista High School had its seventh graduating class (459 students) in 2011.

Mountain Vista High School website  
<http://mountainvistaonline.org>



## SCHOOL PROFILE 2011 - 2012

### MOUNTAIN VISTA HIGH SCHOOL

10585 Mountain Vista Ridge  
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126  
(303) 387-1500  
Fax: (303) 387-1668

CEEB Code 060-747

### Administration

Michael Weaver, Principal  
Rob Ceglie, Assistant Principal  
Corrie Hitchens, Assistant Principal  
Alan Long, Assistant Principal  
Robert Peterson, Assistant Principal  
Pat McCabe, Athletics Director

### Counselors

Sandy Teegerstrom	A - C	303-387-1521
Michael Monnet	D & H - La	303-387-1514
Terry Gerba	E & Le - O	303-387-1517
Aaron Ragon	F & P - Sm	303-387-1522
Wendy Strait	G & Sn - Z	303-387-1527
Susan Delgado, Registrar		303-387-1524
Kathy Neely, Secretary		303-387-1526
Jan Schafer, Post Grad Sec'y		303-387-1510

## Mission Statement

As a school community that cares for and respects each individual, we work together to create an academically-challenging environment, to support learning and high achievement, and to promote productive and responsible citizenship.

Care - Respect - Challenge  
Support - Achieve

## Our School and Community

*"Together we achieve the extraordinary"*

Mountain Vista High School is located in south central Highlands Ranch situated in Douglas County, one of the fastest growing school districts in Colorado. The district spans 860 square miles of rural and suburban settings between Denver and Colorado Springs serving over 60,000 students.

Our doors opened in August of 2001 with 350 students. Currently, Mountain Vista has approximately 2040 students. We are a traditional, comprehensive public high school with a strong college preparatory program that serves grades 9-12. The 173-day school calendar is comprised of two 18-week semesters.

We have consistently achieved an "Excellent" rating in our overall academic performance. Most recently, Mountain Vista High School has exceeded or met all performance criteria on Colorado's School Performance Framework highlighted by a 100% rating (35 of 35 points) in the Postsecondary and Work Force Readiness Indicator.

Mountain Vista High School is accredited through Douglas County School District by the Colorado Department of Education.

## Curriculum

Mountain Vista High School students may choose courses from traditional, college preparatory, Advanced Placement, on and off-campus college courses or vocational programs. Our school also provides programs for students with special needs and English as a Second Language (ESL).

As of 2009, our Douglas County School District high schools have open campus for all upper classmen who are in good academic standing and who demonstrate responsible citizenship to leave school grounds. Our scheduling system follows a traditional seven period day with a modified block two days a week to allow for an advisory period and Student Opportunities for Academic Responsibility program. S.O.A.R creates the environment and provides the opportunity for students to excel in every class. Students are able to earn a maximum of 7 credits per year.

## Faculty

Mountain Vista High School has a young enthusiastic staff consisting of a principal, four assistant principals, five counselors, and an athletic director with 114 Colorado state-certified instructors. Ninety percent of our teachers teach in the subject area of which they received their primary degree, sixty percent of Mountain Vista's faculty has acquired a Master's Degree or higher, and twenty-eight percent has 15 or more years of teaching experience.

*"Every great school has strong leadership--a principal, teachers and counselors who work as a team."*

--Gaston Caperton  
President of the College Board

## Athletics/Activities

Mountain Vista High School students are given a maximum opportunity to develop leadership skills. A well rounded athletic program is offered to both males and females. Our teams compete in track, cross-country, swimming, tennis, golf, basketball, soccer, volleyball and lacrosse. Men's sports include football, wrestling, baseball and ice hockey. Women's sports include softball, field hockey, gymnastics, cheer and poms.

Band and choir students participate in state and national competitions. Theatre and music departments produce major shows. Academic letters are awarded for student participation in these activities.

Key Club, Science Olympiad, DECA, FBLA, Anime Club, In-Line Hockey, Rugby, NHS, Technology Student Association, Diversity Club, and Math Club are just a few of our twenty-seven plus non-academic activities in which our students may strive for excellence.

## Points of Pride

Mountain Vista High School has demonstrated excellence in all academic and extra-curricular areas. Standardized test score averages have consistently been above state and national scores. Our women's soccer team is the 2011 state champions. We have had nine Athletic State Championship teams. Fourteen of the varsity athletic teams were recognized as Academic All State in the 2010-2011 school year. Eighty-two of our Varsity athletes received a 4.0+ GPA and all our varsity athletes have an average GPA of 3.55. Seventeen Academic State Championships have been awarded to our athletic teams. We have successful Unified Basketball and Soccer programs. Our parents have supported our school and its many clubs and activities with over 14,000 volunteer hours and our 2010 seniors have documented 26,800+ community service hours.



Mountain Vista High School  
10585 Mountain Vista Ridge · Highlands Ranch, Colorado 80126  
Main Office: 303-387-1500 · Counseling: 303-387-1526 · Fax: 303-387-1668  
"Together we achieve the extraordinary!"

Smith, Jacob Alexander  
ID#110364  
CLASS OF 2012

### ACT SCORES

SMITH, JACOB A					-07229739	09/26/94
NAME OF STUDENT					SSN/ACT ID	DATE OF BIRTH
<b>The ACT®</b>						
SCORES:	ENGLISH	MATH	READING	SCIENCE	COMPOSITE	
	35	29	28	27	30	
PERCENT AT OR BELOW NAT'L COMP.:	96					
					ACT®	

### SAT SCORES

LAST SMITH	FIRST JACOB	M.I. A
TEST DATE OCT 10	GRADE 11	SAT CR 620
SAT Program The College Board For High School Use Only	SAT M 680	SAT W 610
	SAT MC 64	SAT ESSAY 07
LAST SMITH	FIRST JACOB	M.I. A
TEST DATE JAN 11	GRADE 11	SAT CR 640
SAT Program The College Board For High School Use Only	SAT M 700	SAT W 670
	SAT MC 69	SAT ESSAY 08
LAST SMITH	FIRST JACOB	M.I. A
TEST DATE MAY 11	GRADE 11	SAT SUBJ 1 MB800
SAT Program The College Board For High School Use Only	SAT SUBJ 2 SP610	SAT SUBJ 3
LAST SMITH	FIRST JACOB	M.I. A
TEST DATE JUN 11	GRADE 11	SAT CR 720
SAT Program The College Board For High School Use Only	SAT M 670	SAT W 740
	SAT MC 77	SAT ESSAY 08
LAST SMITH	FIRST JACOB	M.I. A
TEST DATE OCT 01, 2011	GRADE 12	SAT SUBJ 1 M2720
SAT Program The College Board For High School Use Only	SAT SUBJ 2 LR730	SAT SUBJ 3

Official's Signature

- Comments  
\* = Weighted Course  
\*\*Courses offered under a modified curriculum  
R=Repeat Course

**Douglas County District**  
**Mountain Vista High School Official Transcript**

School CEEB Code: 060747 School Code: 6165  
 Tel: (303)387-1500 Fax: (303)387-1501  
 10585 Mountain Vista Ridge, Highlands Ranch, CO 80126

**Smith, Jacob Alexander**

Student Number: 110364 Grade: 12  
 12006 ANTELOPE TRL , PARKER, CO 80138  
 Generated on 02/27/2012 08:59:08 AM Page 1 of 2

Student Information			#6165 Mountain Vista High School				#6165 Mountain Vista High School			
Course	Mark	Weight Credit	Course	Mark	Weight Credit	Course	Mark	Weight Credit		
<b>2008-2009 Grade 09 Term 2</b>			<b>2010-2011 Grade 11 Term 2</b>							
60550S2 Algebra II Honors	A	0.5000 0.5	80365S2 *AP Biology	A	0.5000 0.5					
55350 Creative and Foreign Foods	A	0.5000 0.5	60650S2 *AP Calculus BC	A	0.5000 0.5					
50310S2 English I Honors	A	0.5000 0.5	50390S2 *AP Lang/Comp	A	0.5000 0.5					
25425 Microsoft Office Applications	A	0.5000 0.5	40500 Advisement	S	0.0000 0					
80315S2 Physical Science Honors	A	0.5000 0.5	55300 Healthy Decisions	A	0.5000 0.5					
95610S2 Spanish II	A	0.5000 0.5	50413S2 Newspaper - Elective Credit	A	0.5000 0.5					
85835 World Geography	A	0.5000 0.5	95631S2 Spanish IV	A	0.5000 0.5					
		Credit: 3.500 GPA: 4.0000 U/W GPA: 4.0000	85575 US History Since 1945	A	0.5000 0.5					
					Credit: 3.500 GPA: 4.4286 U/W GPA: 4.0000					
<b>2009-2010 Grade 10 Term 1</b>			<b>2011-2012 Grade 12 Term 1</b>							
40500 Advisement	P	0.0000 0	60660S1 *Calculus III	A	0.5000 0.5					
80356S1 Biology H	A	0.5000 0.5	80400S1 *AP Chemistry	A	0.5000 0.5					
25700 Business Principle	A	0.5000 0.5	50400S1 *AP Literature & Composition	A	0.5000 0.5					
50340S1 English II Honors	A	0.5000 0.5	40500 Advisement	S	0.0000 0					
60752S1 Honors Trigonometry and Precal	A	0.5000 0.5	48885 Aide-Teacher S1	P	0.0000 0.25					
50413S1 Newspaper - Elective Credit	A	0.5000 0.5	95660S1 Spanish V	A	0.5000 0.5					
95620S1 Spanish III	A	0.5000 0.5			Credit: 2.250 GPA: 4.7500 U/W GPA: 4.0000					
85700 United States Government	A	0.5000 0.5								
		Credit: 3.500 GPA: 4.0000 U/W GPA: 4.0000								
<b>#6164 Mountain Ridge Middle School</b>			<b>Work In Progress</b>							
<b>Course</b>	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Weight Credit</b>	60660S2 *Differential Equations		0.500					
60231 Discovery Math 8	A	0.2500 0.25	80400S2 *AP Chemistry		0.500					
Geometry			50400S2 *AP Literature & Composition		0.500					
		Credit: .250 GPA: 4.0000 U/W GPA: 4.0000	40500 Advisement		0.0000					
<b>2007-2008 Grade 08 Term 2</b>			80345S2 Introduction to Engineering		0.500					
60231 Discovery Math 8	A	0.2500 0.25	95660S2 Spanish V		0.500					
Geometry										
		Credit: .250 GPA: 4.0000 U/W GPA: 4.0000	<b>Standard Tests</b>							
<b># Broomfield High School, Broomfield CO</b>										
<b>Course</b>	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Weight Credit</b>	<b>Community Service</b>							
TR Geom Adv Wt	A	0.5000 0.5	Score: 609.5		Date: 12/18/2008					
		Credit: .500 GPA: 4.0000 U/W GPA: 4.0000	Result: Passed							
<b>#6165 Mountain Vista High School</b>										
<b>Course</b>	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Weight Credit</b>	<b>Credit Summary</b>							
<b>2008-2009 Grade 09 Term 1</b>			<b>HS Credit</b>							
60550S1 Algebra II Honors	A	0.5000 0.5	AMH		1.000	1.000				
85325 Ancient Civilizations	A	0.5000 0.5	ECN		0.500	0.500				
50310S1 English I Honors	A	0.5000 0.5	ELE		3.250	3.250				
80315S1 Physical Science Honors	A	0.5000 0.5	ENG		3.500	3.500				
50700 Public Speaking	A	0.5000 0.5	GGY		0.500	0.500				
95610S1 Spanish II	A	0.5000 0.5	GVT		0.500	0.500				
75350 Strength/Conditioning-Fall	A	0.5000 0.5	MAT		4.500	4.500				
		Credit: 3.500 GPA: 4.0000 U/W GPA: 4.0000	PHY		1.000	1.000				
			PRA		4.500	4.500				
		Credit: 3.500 GPA: 4.4286 U/W GPA: 4.0000	SCI		4.000	4.000				
			SPC		0.500	0.500				
			WLD		0.500	0.500				
			Total		24.250	24.250				

Official's Signature



# Mountain Vista High School

10585 Mountain Vista Ridge • Highlands Ranch, Colorado 80126

Phone: 303-387-1500 • Fax: 303-387-1501

January 25, 2012

*"Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved." ~ Helen Keller*

When I initially read this quote, it brought Jacob Smith to the forefront of my mind. Jake's life and experience is validation of Helen Keller's sentiments and I am glad to have the opportunity to reflect on Jake and his inspirational example. I have been Jake's counselor for almost four years and it is my sincere pleasure to write this letter on his behalf.

Jake is brilliant, hardworking and extraordinarily talented. For the past two years, he's acted as a Teacher Assistant to a professor at CU Denver in a Latin class. In this role, Jake helped grade papers and develop course material. In my eight years experience at the high school level, Jake is the first student I have known who has operated in such an advanced capacity at the college level. It is especially impressive that he's managed this considering what happened two years ago.

During the summer between his freshman and sophomore year, Jake developed a neurological condition that caused him to tremor, shake and move involuntarily to the point that he had trouble walking for a period of months. As a result of this condition, Jake did not physically attend MVHS his sophomore year but studied at home (through our homebound program). In spite of this significant barrier, Jake received straight A's in rigorous academic classes. Many of our best teachers pondered their purpose at this point. I met with Jake periodically throughout the year and I was amazed at his positive attitude and the resiliency of his spirit. This was a very challenging time for Jake as he was essentially unable to leave his house for an entire year. Jake's doctors have never determined a definitive diagnosis that explains Jake's symptoms. Now healthy again, I believe it was Jake's tremendous faith, drive and determination that got him through.

Perhaps because of this experience, Jake is passionate about becoming an Infectious Disease Specialist. He would ultimately love to identify and cure infectious disease. This past summer, he found himself outside the gates of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the way he described this experience, you would have thought he'd met the Beatles! This passion and intellectual curiosity is salient in Jake and one look at his transcript is a testimony to the fact that Jake is hard working, intelligent and has consistently challenged himself with rigorous classes. Jake's 4.14 GPA and ranking in the top two percent of his class is no accident; he is simply one of the hardest working and most focused students I have ever met in my career.

Jake has accumulated an incredible 607 hours of community service thus far in his high school career and adds more each week. He has volunteered at Sky Ridge Medical Center relaying

information to families whose loved ones are in surgery and caring for patients on patient floors. Jake has also volunteered at Edwards Animal Foundation grooming, feeding and caring for various animals and leading tours. Jake's community service record is so extensive that I don't have time to scratch the surface here.

At school, Jake is extremely active. He is a member of a student leadership organization that is charged with improving the climate of MVHS called Eagles' Nest. He is involved in the National Honor Society and he is the president of the Spanish National Honor Society. Jake also played football his freshman year and I suspect he would still be playing if it were not for the ailment that affected him his sophomore year.

Jake's example is so powerful that when things in my life are challenging, I sometimes think about Jake and draw inspiration from his example. His altruism, sincerity and ability to overcome adversity have earned him a position of respect with all who know him. I know that he will enhance and contribute to any institution of higher learning that he attends. For this reason, I offer him my most enthusiastic recommendation. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature consisting of the letters 'A' and 'R' followed by a checkmark-like symbol.

Aaron Ragon

aaron.ragon@dcsdk12.org

Counselor

303.588.2143



## The Edwards Foundation for Rescued Animals

February 25, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pride that I record my impressions of an excellent young man, Jake Smith, and nominate him for a Debbie Jackson Memorial Scholarship.

I remember the first time Jake came to visit the Edwards Animal Foundation in 2010. He was wearing knee braces and struggling to walk, but that didn't stop him from coming to help out on the farm. On that first day, Jake found a duckling under the house that was cold and very weak due to an owl or coyote attack. He sat on the back porch for hours, nursing it back to health. He massaged it in his warm hands and soon, the duckling began to revive. Jake took the baby duck, who he named "Ubaldo" after his favorite Rockies baseball pitcher, home and fostered him until he was strong enough to survive on his own. His caring and nurturing attitude impressed me immediately. From that moment, I knew I could trust Jake implicitly with the rescued animals.

I could go on and on about the work that Jake has done at the foundation over the past few years – feeding and cleaning the animals, taking unruly dogs on walks, unloading hay, and tending to sick animals. Without his help, there are many back-breaking, and for lack of a better word, "gross" things that would not get done. One of my favorite things to tell Jake is that I think he is "awesome cool." He always gives me a humble smile and asks if there is anything else that he can do.

Jake is a kind-hearted young man who diligently completes every task he is given without complaint. He has a "let's get it done and get it done right" attitude that puts him easily into a leadership position with the other volunteers. Jake is calm, polite, agreeable, and humble in all situations.

Even with all his help at the foundation, Jake is an exceptional student at Mountain Vista High School, maintaining a 4.19 GPA. Besides volunteering with Edwards Animals, Jake finds time to volunteer at places like Project C.U.R.E and Sky Ridge Medical Center. And though his schedule is busy, Jake loves spending time with his family and his own animals at home. His little brother, "Dawson," is the apple of his eye.

I am certain that Jake will uphold his service ethic throughout his life, as he aspires to attend Rice University and become an Infectious Disease Specialist at low-income clinics in South America. Jake has the brains and the heart to do something really

special in his lifetime.

Thank you for the opportunity to nominate Jake Smith for the Debbie Jackson Memorial Scholarship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynda Edwards". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Lynda" on the first line and "Edwards" on the second line.

Lynda Edwards, President of Edwards Animal Foundation



Home of the Grizzlies

# Arrowwood Elementary



Karen Moore, Principal  
Kimberly Moore, Assistant Principal

February 18, 2012

Dear Debbie Jackson Memorial Scholarship Committee:

I am delighted to write this letter of recommendation for Jake Smith, a talented young man that I have known since his days as a fourth grader at Arrowwood Elementary. For the past nine years, I have watched Jake grow into a fine young gentleman who I am proud to call my friend. Jake impressed me from the moment we met, and he continues to impress me to this day.

If you asked me what words best describe Jake Smith, I would tell you: remarkable, adroit, assiduous, benevolent, and humble. Jake's academic record speaks for itself. At Arrowwood Elementary, Jake was involved in my spelling bee club. Because of his determination and hard work, he achieved much success in his spelling bee career at the local, state and national levels: including four school championships, three district championships, two state championships, and a 25th place during the ESPN round at the National Spelling Bee. His level of self-motivation, which included the study of Latin and Greek languages, was truly astounding for a boy of his age. Now, in high school, he has earned a 4.19 GPA and excelled in all of his AP classes, earning the highest score of 5 on every AP test he has taken.

While Jake's academic prowess clearly underscores his undeniable critical thinking abilities, it's not what makes Jake remarkable. Jake's diligence, compassion, and humility make him one of the finest young men I have ever known. During the summer after his freshman year, Jake began experiencing difficulty moving and began losing the ability to control his muscles. His condition deteriorated so much so that he had to remain at home during his sophomore year, completing his school work via independent study while undergoing medical tests to determine a course of treatment. By the beginning of his junior year, Jake had made some improvements, but he continued to struggle with abilities we often take for granted. Throughout all of his physical trials though, Jake committed 110% of his effort to continuing his academic success, completing over 400 hours of community service, and continuing his efforts to overcome his physical limitations. Jake has demonstrated to me over and over his willingness to do whatever it takes to succeed as an individual – and to help others. And he does so with a quiet humility that is inspiring.

I believe that loving life and giving to others compose the very being of Jake Smith. Jake plans to become an infectious disease specialist and serve people in South America. Jake has told me, "I have been extremely privileged to have the life I have. If I can't make something good come out of these privileges, I will not have taken full advantage of them."

10345 Arrowwood Drive | Highlands Ranch, CO 80130 | 303-387-6875 ph | 303-387-6876 fax



Douglas County School District

*Learn today. Lead tomorrow.*

To this day, I am graced with Jake's presence on a regular basis as he helps me in my fourth grade classroom. When the children see Jake, their faces light up. Jake's calm demeanor and warmth brighten the room immediately. Many of my current spelling bee students look at Jake in awe and hungrily devour the advice and help he so willingly gives them.

Jake Smith is truly an impressive young man, one I know will succeed in all he chooses to pursue. Without reservation, I recommend him to receive the Debbie Jackson Memorial Scholarship.

Sincerely,



Ethel McGowan  
4th Grade Teacher  
Arrowwood Elementary