

Governor's Scholars Program 2026 Teacher Recommendation Form

MUST BE TYPED

(Once completed, please return to student or school)

Teacher's Name: Carla Cook

Student's Name: Tony Jones

Subject: Science

☒ 9th

☒ 10th

☒ 11th

☒ AP

☒ Honors

☐ Regular

Please check the number that represents your experience with this student as related to the qualities listed below. 5 represents the highest score and 1 represents the lowest score.

Participation in class discussions/on-task behavior in class	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Inquisitiveness, interest in class topics and issues	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Ability to synthesize and grasp underlying principles	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Creativity and originality of thought	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Self-discipline, responsibility, and dedication to following through	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Willingness to take academic risks	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Motivation, initiative, and self-starting ability	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Flexibility, willingness to adapt to new situations and accept changes	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Cooperation, social and emotional maturity	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Academic integrity and honesty	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Consideration and attitude toward other students	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Contributing member of the school community	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5

As you respond to the following questions, please be sure to include specific details and examples. Brief responses that lack specific information do not provide the selection committee with sufficient information and will result in a lower score.

1. What do you consider to be the most relevant academic strength and weakness of this student?

Tony is a mature young man with an excellent work ethic. He was the top student in Pre-AP Chemistry last year, and he continues to impress in both dual-credit courses (Biology and A&P) that I teach this year. He comes to class with a smile on his face, enthusiasm for the topic of the day, and willingness to assist others needing help. His kind spirit and positive attitude greatly enhance the learning environment in our classroom. Tony has the potential to grasp difficult, abstract concepts and apply his knowledge to new problems and situations. I have been impressed, but not surprised, by his dedicated effort to stay current with all his assignments. He is a dedicated student, working diligently outside of class to understand what he is learning, and is willing to go the extra mile to produce quality work. Tony is creative and inquisitive, asking thoughtful questions that promote deeper thinking regarding the topic of class discussion. He can be counted on to show leadership in the classroom with all his activities, often being the one who recognizes the achievements of his lab partners. He has received numerous awards and recognitions for his scholastic and athletic accomplishments, but is very humble in his attitude; he considers it a blessing to have these opportunities and is determined to do his best each time. He is aware of his limitations, but does not let that stop him from making a positive contribution - for example, he is an excellent soccer player, being named to the All-Region All-Star team, but he also plays basketball (in his words "It's not my best game"). His decision to play basketball is based on the belief that he can encourage, support,

and help motivate his teammates even if he isn't the best player. This is the perfect example of the spirit of Tony Jones - always try your very best, never give up, help make a situation and those involved better!

I know of no significant academic weakness in this student. Whenever he is frustrated because he is struggling with a concept or with a difficult test, it seems to motivate him to work that much harder to gain the understanding he desires. Tony is organized, manages his time well, and follows directions when working individually or with others. I would love to see Tony have the opportunity to interact with other young adults with similar potential and diverse backgrounds - he would thrive in the GSP environment.

2. What is most unique about this student as they relate to other students? If you are aware of any hardships/conditions (social, emotional, or otherwise) that may impact this student's participation in the Governor's Scholars Program, please note them here.

Tony has positive relationships with his peers and teachers. He is respectful, has a positive outlook and personality and makes each person feel valued and important in his presence. When working collaboratively with others in groups or on projects, he is a leader who includes others, respects each individual, and encourages the best from everyone. Tony has a heart for helping those in need, in our community and beyond through mission work and volunteering his time to help. I had the opportunity to travel with Tony and other students to Great Britain last summer. I observed his respect for other cultures, his desire to learn, and his ability to be independent in unfamiliar surroundings. Tony has an older sister with health issues and learning disabilities who is a student in the special needs class at our school. I have observed the loving manner in which he interacts with his sister and the others in the class. It is obvious that he cares deeply about each person, treating each student with patience and kindness. He demonstrates sincere compassion and joy when those students seek him out in the hallways. His experiences with his sister have developed within him a mature level of awareness and understanding not always seen in students his age. He embraces diversity and treats individuals with respect. Tony is the type of person that adults and teenagers enjoy having in their group.

A solid, well-rounded young man, he conducts himself appropriately and confidently in all situations. He is involved in multiple school and community organizations, holding offices or positions of responsibility in all of them. He is a member of Rotary Interact, BETA, Health Occupations Student Association, Y-Club, Student Council, and Annual Staff just to name a few. His list of awards and recognitions are lengthy and impressive. He can be counted on to complete tasks with exemplary quality before deadlines, working calmly under pressure. Other students look up to him for ideas and leadership. I know of no conditions that would prevent him from participating fully in the Governor's Scholars Program; he would enthusiastically take full advantage of every opportunity presented to him.

3. Based on your experience with the student, what would you expect the single greatest contribution of this student to be at GSP?

Tony is open-minded and eager to learn, having an enthusiasm that is contagious. He has a wealth of experiences that have shaped his life up to now - through family, our community, and abroad. He has pursued a wide range of academically oriented activities as well as sports (soccer, basketball, and track) and with persistent effort, has been successful in all of them. He loves to travel and experience new cultures, having compassion and empathy towards the needs of others. If there is a person who appears to be disengaged and excluded, he will not hesitate to engage them in conversation and include them in activities. Tony will be the first to volunteer or lead a group, to organize a project, to sign up for an excursion, to encourage others to participate, etc. He does not appear to be discouraged by minor setbacks, but instead, motivates himself to achieve beyond his goals in the next attempt. He handles stress and change with ease and flexibility, demonstrating a level of maturity beyond his years. GSP would be a wonderful experience for him, providing a chance to interact with other talented students beyond our small-town high school.

4. If information that you feel important is not included elsewhere in your recommendation, please feel free to include it here.

Tony Jones is one of the strongest students I have had the privilege of teaching in recent years, not just academically, but socially and professionally - he is just an all-round excellent person. He was recently accepted into a program that allows students to earn college credit in high school. In addition to attending college one day a week, he is a student in Dual-credit Biology and Dual-credit Anatomy and Physiology (Two courses that I teach). He has worked tirelessly to stay current in all classes and has performed exceptionally well in all courses. I have observed growth, confidence, and maturity in his studies and his extracurricular activities. If selected to the GSP, he would approach the experience with the same enthusiasm, open-mindedness, and gratitude that he approaches everything in his daily life. He would be a great asset to the GSP community and would greatly benefit from the challenge and opportunities provided.