

# THE COMMON APPLICATION

## Profile

### Personal Information

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**Name** Bromley, Susan Mary  
**Preferred Name** Susan  
**Sex, Birthdate** Female, 02/10/2002

### Contact Details

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**Email, Phone** smbrom444@gmail.com, +1.401-683-2000, Mobile, No other telephone  
**Permanent Address** 145 Old Ponte Road Holly Hill, WV, 24714, USA

### Demographics

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**Religion** Roman Catholic  
**Military Status** None  
**Hispanic or Latino** No

### Language

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**French** Speak, Read, Write  
**English** First Language, Speak, Read, Write, Spoken at Home

### Geography & Citizenship

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**Citizenship Status** U.S. Citizen or U.S. National  
**Birthplace** Holly Hill, West Virginia, United States of America (17 Years US, 0 Years Non-US)  
**SSN** XXX-XX-6789

### CA Fee Waiver

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**Fee Waiver Requested** Yes, Signed: Susan Mary  
I have received or am eligible to receive an ACT or SAT testing fee waiver  
I can provide a supporting statement from a school official, college access counselor, financial aid officer, or community leader

# Family

## Household

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**Parents** Widowed  
**Home** Parent 1

### Parent 1

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Father  
**Name** Mr. Walter J Bromley  
**Birthplace** United States of America  
**Address** the same as my home address  
**Occupation** Skilled trades, Self-Employed  
**Education** Graduated from high/secondary school (or equivalent)

### Parent 2

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Mother  
**Name** Mrs. Joyce Bromley (Benoit)  
**Deceased:** 11/2008  
**Birthplace** United States of America  
**Occupation** Homemaker (full-time)  
**Education** Graduated from high/secondary school (or equivalent)

### Siblings

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1. John Bromley, Age 21, Brother, Some high/secondary school
2. Celeste Bromley, Age 19, Sister, Some trade school or community college, Other, (01/2018 - ), **New River Community and Technical College, Beckley, WV, USA**
3. Paul Bromley, Age 16, Brother, Some high/secondary school
4. Joan Bromley, Age 14, Sister, Some high/secondary school
5. Lucille Bromley, Age 12, Sister, Some grade/primary school

## Education

### Current or Most Recent Secondary School

Portsmouth Abbey School, Portsmouth, RI, USA, Independent, CEEB: 400130 (09/2015 - 05/2019)

**Counselor** Mr. Henry Q Althorpe, Assistant Director of College Counseling  
**Email, Phone** halthorpe@portsmouthabbey.org, +1.401-683-2000  
**Boarding School** Yes: Living at School  
**Progression** No change in progression  
**Graduation Date** 05/2019

### Colleges & Universities

### Grades

**Rank** na / 99

### Current or Most Recent Year Courses

First Trimester	Second Trimester	Third Trimester
AP Computer Science - (AP)	AP Computer Science - (AP)	AP Computer Science - (AP)
Schola - (REG)	Schola - (REG)	Schola - (REG)
AP English Literature - (AP)	AP English Literature - (AP)	AP English Literature - (AP)
AP Calculus AB - (AP)	AP Calculus AB - (AP)	AP Calculus AB - (AP)
AP French - (AP)	AP French - (AP)	AP French - (AP)
Honors Biology - (HON)	Honors Biology - (HON)	Honors Biology - (HON)

### Honors

<b>National Merit Scholarship Commended Scholar</b>	National	12
<b>National Latin Exam Gold Key, School Winner</b>	National	10, 11
<b>LA Times student journalist contest winner: article published</b>	National	11
<b>Faculty Form V Award for overall excellence</b>	School	11
<b>Portsmouth Abbey Diman Scholar</b>	School	9, 10, 11, 12

### Future Plans

College teacher, Doctorate

## Testing

### SAT (March 2016 or after)

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<b>Evidence-based Reading and Writing</b>	800	05/05/2018
<b>Math</b>	770	12/05/2017
<b>Essay</b>	22	05/05/2018
<b>Taken</b>	2	
<b>Planned</b>	0	
<b>SAT Essay</b>	Yes	

### SAT Subject Tests

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<b>French with Listening</b>	800	06/2018
<b>Latin Reading</b>	760	06/2018
<b>Math Level 2</b>	730	06/2018

### AP Subject Tests

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<b>Calculus AB</b>		05/2019
<b>Computer Science A</b>		05/2019
<b>English Language &amp; Composition</b>	5	05/2018
<b>French Language</b>		05/2019
<b>United States History</b>	5	05/2018
<b>English Literature &amp; Composition</b>		05/2019
<b>Latin: Vergil</b>	5	05/2018
<b>Psychology</b>	4	05/2018

## Activities

### Other Club/Activity

12 house prefect, St. Benet's House  
 School work with houseparents to run the dorm  
 168 hr/wk, 31 wk/yr  
 Continue

### Community Service (Volunteer)

9, 10 Volunteer, St. Stephen's Church  
 Break I was an assistant counselor at parish summer camp and worked at soup kitchen  
 30 hr/wk, 12 wk/yr  
 Continue

### Other Club/Activity

12 Disciplinary Committee member  
 School The committee hears cases of serious disciplinary infractions and assigns consequences  
 1 hr/wk, 30 wk/yr  
 Continue

### Social Justice

11, 12 Human Rights Club  
 School participated in events to raise awareness about human rights issues  
 2 hr/wk, 30 wk/yr  
 Continue

### Community Service (Volunteer)

11, 12 peer tutor  
 School I help younger students with their school work  
 3 hr/wk, 30 wk/yr  
 Continue

### Athletics: JV/Varsity

9, 10, 11, 12 Outdoor Track, member of the school track team  
 School run the 400 and 800; won most improved player award in 10th grade  
 14 hr/wk, 10 wk/yr

### Music: Vocal

9, 10, 11, 12 Abbey Singers  
 School I sing with the school's choir  
 4 hr/wk, 30 wk/yr  
 Continue

### Athletics: JV/Varsity

9, 10, 11, 12 Cross-country, member of the cross country team  
 School elected captain for 2018 season  
 14 hr/wk, 10 wk/yr

### Debate/Speech

10, 11 Model UN  
 School participated in three Model UN conferences; awarded Best Delegate twice  
 3 hr/wk, 15 wk/yr

**Work (Paid)**

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10, 11, 12	waitress, Claire's Diner; clerk, Hank's Hardware
Break	I work as many hours I can to help fund family needs
45 hr/wk, 12 wk/yr	
Continue	

# Writing

## Personal Essay

**Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.**

My whole life, I used the forest as an escape; my small poor rural town sits next to a great national forest that goes on forever. I grew up wandering that forest, learning its secret signs of animal life and listening to the loud bright noises that seem only to complete the silence under the trees. It is not exactly a peaceful place. In fact, it is scary, a true wilderness when it comes down to it, filled with wild animals, unpredictable terrain, and no trail markers or other signs of civilization. It could be easy to get lost in there. Even so, under the dangers and the wildness I sense an order in those woods, one I can sense but will never understand. I feel at home there in a way that I never have in my town. For a long time, I used to come back into town from wandering the woods with a sense of despair. All I could see was the grubbiness of the gas station, the bare dirty playground, the trash: a cheap ugly wildness without order – with all these people struggling day to day. I didn't feel safe in town; I felt trapped.

After about a week at the New England boarding school that is now my second home, I discovered a small patch of woods on the northern border of campus. At first I was thrilled, but in my wandering into them, I found these pretty little woods were only "wild" with quotation marks. On the other side of the woods was a manicured golf course, peopled by adults dressed in absurd colors and silly shoes. These woods were pretty, for sure, but these woods, bordered and safe, and easily navigated, felt as foreign to me as those golfers.

About two weeks after I discovered the "woods" on campus, I followed the stream that runs through those woods; the stream is called Bloody Run because of the bloody battle that took place there during the Revolution hundreds of years ago. I've been told that Hessian soldiers who were killed there haunt these woods, filling it with the wildness and order of the past, of the presence of history and its consequences. This stream leads to the estuary where it feeds into the Bay that then becomes the ocean. As I looked at the water, I suddenly felt some of that same wildness that I remembered from my forest back home. The sea, on the edge of which the campus sits, hints at that same kind of uncontained wildness – mysterious and scary, but overflowing with possibility and hope. Maybe that is what gives me peace – the idea that there are no boundaries.

I have grown up a lot since I arrived at Portsmouth Abbey, and I have found that the busy structure of my life on campus has given me the chance to build my strength internally; now, when I return to my hometown, I bring a sense of brightness and calm and an order of my own. I can help make my house feel as warm and peaceful for my family as the real woods make me feel.

## Education Progression

**Education progression details**

No change in progression

## Disciplinary Information

**Have you ever been found responsible for a disciplinary violation at any educational institution you have attended from the 9th grade (or the international equivalent) forward, whether related to academic misconduct or behavioral misconduct, that resulted in a disciplinary action?**

No

**Have you ever been adjudicated guilty or convicted of a misdemeanor or felony?**

No

## **Fitch College – Supplement to the Common Application**

**Applicant Name:** Susan Mary Bromley

**Address:** 145 Old Ponte Road  
Holly Hill, West Virginia 24714

**Current High School:** Portsmouth Abbey School

**Have you ever visited the campus?:** No

**Have you had an interview?:** No

**Preferred admission plan?:** Early Action

**Briefly describe your reason for applying to Fitch College:**

My first introduction to Fitch College was through the pamphlets I received during my 4<sup>th</sup> Form year. The campus looked beautiful. As I became more focused in my college search, I realized that Fitch's basis in the liberal arts and its excellent Classics department made it a fit for me. Although I am not sure exactly what I want to major in yet, I know I want to pursue an advanced degree beyond college, and Fitch's hands on career office and their success in placing students in quality graduate programs makes it very attractive. I used to think I wanted a big university, but I have found that the small campus where a student can develop real relationships with professors may be what I really am looking for. I don't want to be just a number; I want to be part of a community. The fact that Fitch offers a few substantial merit scholarships is very important to me as well, though I know these are very competitive.



# Portsmouth Abbey School

Portsmouth, RI 02871 Telephone 401-683-2000

## Transcript

### Susan Mary Bromley

145 Old Ponte Road, Holly Hill, WV, 24714

College Counselor: Henry Althorpe

Citizenship: U.S.

Date of Birth: 02/10/2002

Date Enrolled: September 14, 2015

Date Graduated:

Withdraw Date:

Median grade, B, Honors B; passing certifying grade D. School year: 30-six day weeks. Most classes meet 4 times weekly. Honors, Advanced Placement, and accelerated courses are indicated where appropriate. Courses marked with an asterisk (\*) are college level courses taught by invitation to students who have excelled in and exhausted our curricular offerings, including APs, in a particular subject. The normal course load is six courses.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE is unweighted and is computed using the following quality point values:

A+ = 4.3

A = 4.0

A- = 3.8

B+ = 3.5

B = 3.0

B- = 2.8

C+ = 2.5

C = 2.0

C- = 1.8

D+ = 1.5

D = 1.0

F = 0

<u>Form VI</u>	<u>2018-19</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Fall</u>	<u>Credit</u>
Schola			A	
English Literature (AP)		AP	A-	
Calculus AB (AP)		AP	A-	
Computer Science (AP)		AP	C+	
French Language (AP)		AP	B+	
Biology (H)		H	B	

### GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS / 20 CREDITS

Four years of Religion. Four Years of English. Three years of mathematics including Algebra I, II, and Geometry. Two Years of a laboratory science. Two years of history, including one year of US History and one year of European History. One year in the arts. Three years of a foreign language or a combination of two years in any two foreign languages. In addition, students who enter the School in grade 9 are required to take courses in Latin and Ancient History. Humanities fulfills three requirements: Religion 2, English 2 and European History.

**GPA: 3.43**

<u>Form V</u>	<u>2017-18</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>YR</u>	<u>Credit</u>
Faith and Church			A	1.0
American Literature			A	1.0
Latin (AP)		AP	A+	1.0
French 3H		H	A	1.0
US History (AP)		AP	A-	1.0
Algebra II/Analysis (H)		H	A+	1.0

### PREVIOUS ACADEMIC RECORD

St. Stephen's School

2014-15: Grade 8

Latin: 1 Credit

**GPA: 4.06**

<u>Form IV</u>	<u>2016-17</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>YR</u>	<u>Credit</u>
Humanities			B+	2.0
Latin 3H		H	A	1.0
French 2H		H	A	1.0
Geometry			A+	1.0
Chemistry (H)		H	B+	1.0

### NOTATIONS

Dean's List 2016-17, 2017-18

Excellence in Latin, 2017

The Bishop Ansgar Prize: presented for excellence in Latin and civic spirit. 2018

The Faculty Form V Award: for overall academic achievement 2018  
University of Pennsylvania Book Award 2018

**GPA: 3.8**

<u>Form III</u>	<u>2015-16</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>YR</u>	<u>Credit</u>
Basic Theology			B	0.50
Introduction to Literature			B	1.0
Latin 2			B+	1.0
French 1			A-	1.0
Ancient and Medieval History			C+	0.50
Algebra I			B	1.0
Conceptual Physics			B-	1.0

Transcript is unofficial  
unless embossed school  
seal is present here.

**GPA: 3.14**

**Date:** 12/10/20018

**Official Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_



## PORTSMOUTH ABBEY SCHOOL

January 8, 2019

### **Counselor letter for Susan Mary Bromley (DOB: 02/10/2002)**

When Susan Bromley arrived at Portsmouth Abbey as our Diman Scholar, she was determined to adapt to the rigorous academic program, the quirky boarding school schedule, the New England accents, the weather. I think she was shocked at how different it was from home in all these ways, and at first she missed the familiarity of her life back in West Virginia. None of that is surprising, of course. But what completely bowls me over three years later is how well she has adapted to her life here while maintaining her own personality and her ties to home, how strong she has been in the face of serious challenges, and how clearly brilliant she has revealed herself to be.

Susan is a very private person, and she will likely avoid mentioning her family circumstances in her application. But she has given me permission to explain her background and current situation, particularly with regard to her fall term grades. Susan grew up in a rural part of West Virginia, and her family has struggled financially. She lost her mother to cancer in 2008, and her father and oldest brother both struggle with substance abuse issues. Since she was quite young, Susan and her sister have played the role of mom for her younger siblings. Susan's chance at forging a different path came when her parish priest recognized her academic potential and suggested she apply to the Diman scholarship program. He also gave her an excellent foundation in and a deep love for Latin.

### **Academics**

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- As is clear from her transcript, Susan has had a dip in grades for her fall 2018 Fall Term. Because of difficult family circumstances, Susan couldn't return to campus until two weeks into term. Her brother, who struggles with substance abuse, fell off the grid in August, and Susan stayed home to hold the family together and to try to find him. He is still missing, and her missing the first weeks of school and the stress has certainly impacted her performance academically. Even so, her teachers report that her grades have been improving since the middle of the first term.
- Because her previous school's academic program was quite below the academic level at the Abbey, when she began the Third Form here at Portsmouth Abbey, Susan's background in math was quite limited and her background in science and the basics of the scientific method almost nonexistent. Although her own hard work and a healthy curiosity about these disciplines led her to building a good foundation here at the Abbey, her early efforts in the regular science and math classrooms proved daunting; she had to play catch up from the first.
- In consultation with our math department chair, Susan studied Precalculus on her own during the spring of her Fifth Form and over the summer before her Sixth Form. She then tested into the AP Calculus course this year.
- Susan was awarded the Class of 2019 Diman Scholarship - This prestigious merit-based grant is awarded each year to one boarding student entering the Third Form. This four year full merit scholarship covers tuition, room, and board. She will be the first in her family to attend a four year college or university.
- Earned a 5 on the A.P. US History, A.P. English Language, and A.P. Latin (Vergil) exams
- Susan studied independently for the A.P. Psychology exam and earned a 4
- Susan has won numerous academic and school-wide awards as well as being named a National Merit Scholar Commended Student.
- Susan's course load is considered the most rigorous possible for her, considering where she started – all the more impressive because her previous academic background left some major holes in her academic preparation.

### **Activities**

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- Susan was chosen to serve as a prefect this year because of these qualities as well as her fair-mindedness and her ability to deal with all sorts of people. The prefect positions at Portsmouth Abbey are highly coveted; students go through a rigorous, competitive application process, and the job itself comes with serious responsibility. Yes, it is an

honor, but it is also a lot of work, and Susan has stepped up to the challenge. She is willing to go the extra mile to help her dorm-mates, and she knows when to bring issues to the houseparents; both the adults and her peers trust and respect her, and we all enjoy her warmth and her wry sense of humor.

- Susan on why she loves the Culinary Club: *“Knowing how to cook has given me a sense of independence and maturity, and I now use what I’ve learned to contribute to my family; I’ve earned an ability that I can use to cook for my dad and siblings when I am home.”*
- Susan was voted by her fellow prefects to sit as the student representative on the school’s Discipline Committee. It is a difficult and heavy responsibility to sit in judgment of peers, and being chosen by her classmates for this position reveals the esteem in which they hold her.
- Although Susan had not participated much in athletics before coming to the Abbey, she has earned the respect of both teammates and coaches. She earned the Most Improved Player award in Track, and she was elected a captain of the Cross Country team for her Sixth Form season.
- Despite her hefty academic workload, Susan has been involved in Model UN, she writes for the school newspaper, and she has been a forceful and effective member of the Human Rights Club.
- Susan had been awarded a Haney Fellowship (she wanted to spend some time over last summer in DC researching how the senators and representatives from West Virginia were navigating environmental legislation impacting her home state), but pressing family responsibilities meant that she had to go home for the summer. For the past few summers, to help support her family, she has worked two jobs -- at a local restaurant and at a hardware store within biking distance to her house.

## Teacher Comments

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- “Susan is one of the best students of the Classics I have taught in my thirty years in the classroom. She loves the beauty, discipline, and form of Latin and is a subtle and sophisticated reader.”
- “She’s a deep thinker... it is typical of Susan to notice the obscure and make it meaningful.”
- “On her major term paper in AP US History, nobody outdid her effort and her attention to detail in researching the development of the American healthcare system directly after World War II., Susan is dedicated to understanding the particulars of historical moments, the sweep of history throughout human culture, and history’s relevance to current events and crises today.”
- “I am not sure I have ever seen such a huge leap in a student’s performance from year to year. In her first term as a 3<sup>rd</sup> Former, Susan presented almost a tabula rasa in mathematical thinking; now, she is one of our brightest stars.”

Susan has faced struggles that no seventeen year old should have to, and she has held her head high and achieved against enormous odds. Susan’s optimism and generous spirit feed her unconquerable self-reliance in the face of really difficult circumstances. I recommend her to you with great confidence in her character and talent; I am also confident that she will be a game changer to the benefit of all in the larger world.

Sincerely,

Henry Althorpe  
Assistant Director of College Counseling  
Portsmouth Abbey School  
halthorpe@portsmouthabbey.org



PORTSMOUTH ABBEY SCHOOL

**Teacher Recommendation for Susan Mary Bromley**

Dear Admissions Counselor:

I am happy to write in support of Susan Bromley, who I taught Humanities during her 4th Form year and American Literature last year. She is an extraordinary student of literature whose innate ability, love for language, and self-discipline overcame the gaps in her skill set. She is also a lovely young woman and a quiet but forceful leader amongst her peers.

At the start of her 4<sup>th</sup> Form year, Susan was still rather overwhelmed with the high academic expectations here at Portsmouth Abbey; in the first few weeks of Humanities class alone, for example, Susan read Dante's *Inferno*, Augustine's *Confessions*, selections from Thomas Aquinas' writings, some medieval British poetry, and then had to recite Chaucer's famous *Canterbury Tales* opening in the original Middle English. She was boggled, to say the least; but she worked hard to learn, and over the course of that year, revealed the extraordinary scholar that she is. She came to the Abbey as an insightful, passionate yet undisciplined reader, and so some of the heavier texts intimidated her. But by the end of Humanities, she stood out as a mature, sophisticated, excellent reader. Her writing showed more foundational gaps, but Susan put her nose to the grindstone and worked hard to find her voice on the page. That year, Susan spent many conference periods and many nights in the dorm common room working with me on her writing; she didn't just want to be passable in writing; she set her goals high, looking to great literature to guide her. She wanted a Wharton-sized vocabulary, and Hemingway sense of discipline, a Miltonic sense of poetics, and Dorothy Parker's sense of irony. But what she has ended up with is a genuine and natural voice of her own – unpretentious and yet substantial and at times downright poetic. During American Literature last year, she really came into her own, Susan would often come to me outside of class just to refine an idea or to talk about a particularly complex aspect of the text at hand; she is intellectually curious and finds great beauty in the works we delved into, and her voice became a regular one at the seminar table in class. Susan quickly became one of the most adept interpreters, both in her written work and in recitation; she recites beautifully and with an understated emotional power, evoking the depth of the poem at hand through her inflection, pacing, dramatic timing, and delivery. Susan's was not the loudest voice, but was certainly one of the most valued in the class.

Outside of the classroom, Susan is beloved by her peers because of her kindness and her sense of fun. As a prefect in my dorm, she keeps an eye out for those who might be struggling and without drawing attention to it, she goes out of her way to help. She also puts up with no nonsense from her charges, and has more than once been a strong voice of reason in the face of high school nonsense. She has earned the trust of faculty and the affection of her housemates. This makes her a great prefect and role model. Susan is an impressive scholar and an extraordinary young woman and I recommend her with great enthusiasm. I know she will do both good and great things in the world.

Sincerely,

Joan Brown  
Humanities, English Department  
Houseparent, Manor House  
Portsmouth Abbey School  
[jbrown@portsmouthabbey.org](mailto:jbrown@portsmouthabbey.org)  
401.643.1341



PORTSMOUTH ABBEY SCHOOL

**Teacher Recommendation for Susan Mary Bromley**

Dear Admissions Counselor:

As well as being an incredibly nice young woman, Susan Bromley has no fear and she knows how to work – really really hard. Because her middle school didn't offer Algebra, Susan needed to start at the beginning as a 3<sup>rd</sup> Former at the Abbey, which she found deeply frustrating. But typical of this resourceful young lady, she used that frustration to good effect. Not only did she become the strongest student in my Honors Algebra II class last year, but through pure determination and innate talent, she leap-frogged over an entire course to level her own playing field.

At the start of my Honors Algebra II course last year, Susan came to me asking for extra problems, explaining that she had had poor training in math and didn't want to suffer for it in her future studies. Susan became my most frequent visitor at conference the rest of the term, yet never asked me to teach/reteach her anything. Rather, she asked for problems she should try and, with some frustration but a lot of grit, Shannon rolled up her sleeves. Soon, this extra effort became superfluous as she began to earn consistent A+s on almost all her work in my class. So she moved to her next goal: fitting Calculus into her high school coursework. In a rare and perhaps even a unique move, Susan lobbied to take a placement test into Calculus, skipping the Precalculus course. Primarily because it was obvious how brilliant and hard-working this young woman is, and because her standardized test scores were so high, the academic dean and I nervously agreed. So she worked through the Precalculus text book in the spring term of her 5<sup>th</sup> Form year and throughout the summer. With some guidance from me (and a little from Khan Academy), she worked through the material throughout the spring and summer and sat for a placement test in the fall. And she crushed it. She is now excelling in AP Calculus in her 6<sup>th</sup> Form. This young woman could excel in a math-based career without question. At this point, I am convinced she could do anything she puts her mind to.

I recommend Susan Bromley to you as strongly as possible. She is a wonderful student and an impressive person. Please be in touch if you would like to discuss her application further.

Sincerely,

Dan Davidson  
Math Department Head  
Portsmouth Abbey School  
[ddavidson@portsmouthabbey.org](mailto:ddavidson@portsmouthabbey.org)  
401.643.1341