

HARVARD UNIVERSITY



12th Grade



2nd grade

RISHI PUROHIT

He is an exceptional kid—joined SR since 2nd grade (just as mature any middle schooler). He quickly rised up to take on instructor position at SR since 9th grade.

Email from Rishi Purohit

Admitted to Harvard University Class of 2027

Majoring in CS and Economic

It's with great pleasure that I'm writing to inform you of some exciting news: on Thursday and Friday, I was admitted to Harvard and Stanford. While I haven't yet decided where I'll attend, I wanted to take the time to thank you both for the integral role you played in helping make this dream a reality.

I first came to Storming Robots in 2nd grade, and I vividly remember the first time I met Ms. Elizabeth. In order to join the NXT classes, I met with her one-on-one to walk her through a rudimentary at-home project I'd done with a color sensor. I remember her supportive grin as I struggled to draw a curly brace on the whiteboard, her surprised look when I used a *pragma* instead of *SensorType*, and her incredible patience as I nervously described my code's logic. Little did I know that from that moment on, Storming Robots would become a second home for me for almost a decade.

I soon joined those NXT classes, progressing through SR rites of passage like light-sensor line tracing and obstacle avoidance. Through it all, as I built my programming and critical thinking foundations, Ms. Elizabeth continued to believe in me. Sonia and I soon moved on to Ms. Elizabeth's competition classes, continuing to improve our ability to reason effectively and develop sound software logic. My problem-solving skills all these years later can in large part be traced to those hours spent in Lab 2 of the old center.

With your guidance, Sonia and I quickly excelled in the Rescue Line competition, moving on to Soccer and Maze respectively. At this stage, we began our long history of strutting into Dennis's office at the end of the hall, proclaiming, "Dennis, my code isn't working again!". As we navigated a web of thermal sensors, dribblers, and 3-D printed rescue kit ejection systems, we were once again reminded of your immense generosity. I remember spending hours at the center posted up in the kitchen, fiddling with my robot as I worked to implement silver tile code. The support you provided and the lessons I learned will stick with me for the rest of my life..

As I finally entered high school, I began work as an instructor at Storming Robots, a tremendously fulfilling position that provided me with invaluable experience. Each weekend, I could work with students working through the same challenges I faced back in 2nd grade. I saw their pride when their robot began to work and enjoyed the satisfaction of playing a small role in their education.

My experiences throughout my tenure at Storming Robots set me up for the many successes I've had in high school, whether academic, extracurricular, or personal. The genetics research I've been involved in for the past three years requires me to constantly apply the skills I built at Storming Robots. Today, I stand as just one of the many students whose lives you have touched. I am not the first — nor will I be the last — student to fondly reminisce on their time spent at Storming Robots as they thank you for all you have given.

My current success is a dream come true for me, and it is the undeniable truth that I could not have achieved it without your unwavering support all those years. Once again, thank you so much for all you have given me over the past many years.

All the best,

Rishi, April 4th, 2023