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### Coat of Arms Essay

#### Crest:

The crest is commonly known as a boiled leather or light wood on a medieval suit of arms, but in this case, it is something else. Here, the crest is located on top of the wreath and is attached to the helmet and it depicts a variety of animals, plants, birds, humans, man-made objects, and, in some cases, parts of one of these items (ie: the wind of a bird). The crest can sometimes be a panache, or plumes or feathers, as well. It would be decorated with natural colors, a repeat of the main color, or even the color of the metal.

For my crest, I chose to use the head of a giraffe. The positive trait this giraffe symbolizes in my Coat of Arms is my perseverance. In my eyes, a giraffe represents the gift for development, improvement, and expansion in one's character. Perseverance begins with understanding that in the goal that you are trying to achieve, there will be obstacles, but no matter how severe the undertaking, sticking it through to the end is the only option. I chose a giraffe as an example for this positive trait because it symbolizes my stuffed animal, Moo (the giraffe). When I was maybe 2 or 3, my sister Sophia asked what I wanted to call that giraffe stuffed animal, and my answer was Moo. In my defense, it still, to this day, looks to me like a cow (with brown spots and a tan base, of course). As I have grown up, Moo has been my personalized reminder of why am I the way that I am today: no matter what I have done or will do, I will throw my best at it, and not give up. I will persevere. In a way, having a giraffe as my crest is a promise. I will give everything my best, and do my best to push past any obstacles that stand in my way, and no matter how long it takes, I will reach my goals. An example of this is my piano practices. This year has proven to be more than difficult. Between homework and school and tests and school sports, even the thought of relaxation seems a world away (alright, I might be exaggerating a little bit). But in this I tell the truth: it is very difficult to find time for practicing piano and piano lessons. Though it is very difficult, I manage to squeeze in a lesson every Monday and practice time thirty minutes before that. Even though it isn't the ideal performance expectations, it works. I have to admit though, I did want to quit, but then a little giraffe reminded me to not give up (with a little help from my mom, of course). For these reasons, I chose a giraffe as my crest.

#### Wreath:

The wreath is not your traditional holly and berry ring. In this case, it is two pieces of silk twisted together that rests on the top of the helmet attaching it to the mantle. Because of its twisted pattern, the mantle is drawn as six twists with colors that alternate positions, making it striped. For some Coats of Arms, families didn't have a crown or coronet, or chapeau, so they would replace those items with a wreath. In more common circumstances, the ancient coronet was used instead of a wreath.

For my wreath, I chose to draw silhouettes that represent my lovely friends. And they represent, well, my friends. Each of my friends, wonderful in any and every way imaginable, connects my mantle to my helmet. They remind me that I am Grace Pardini, and no one can change that. Through all of my, well, let's just call them personality traits, each one of my friends are there to explore each and every laugh and sassy comment. They are all there for me. They keep my head screwed on straight. Even though I might be difficult to deal with on my sad days or especially my exhausted days, my friends are always there for me to lean on their shoulders. Just seeing them every day brings me an unimaginable joy. For these reasons, I chose them as my wreath.