

January 26, 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you so much for your letter and happy new year! I hope you and your family are doing great. To answer your questions, the name of my university is Tecnológico de Monterrey. Here is a picture of how far we are from each other, according to Google Maps it would take 114 hours on a bike to get from my university to your school.



* Fun way to connect distance between each other

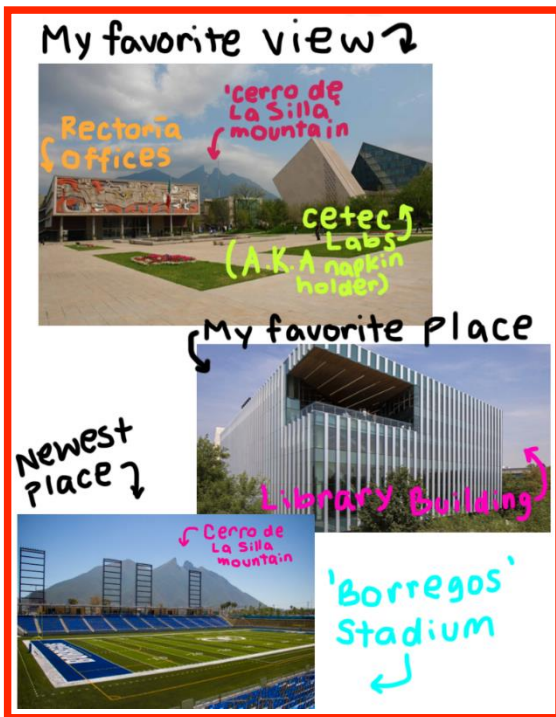
* Maps help pre-scientists visually understand where you live and learn geography

My university is near the center of my city and is very beautiful, it has gorgeous buildings and gardens where I would go and study or meet some of my friends before the pandemic began. On the right are a few pictures of my favorite places on campus.

On the background of the first picture, you can see the 'Cerro de La Silla' mountain, which is very well known from Monterrey. It's called that because it looks like a horse's saddle. The lab I work in is in the CETEC building (A.K.A. napkin holder, because of the resemblance haha). My university's mascot is a ram, in Spanish they're called 'borregos'.

* If applicable - a great opportunity share aspects different cultures/languages/lifestyles

After high school I began my university studies, I recommend that you research many options and talk with people who are working in or studying what you're interested in. I am studying Biomedical Engineering, which is a new area of engineering. I spoke with my neighbor who is a doctor, he told me a lot about how necessary it is to improve devices he uses every day.



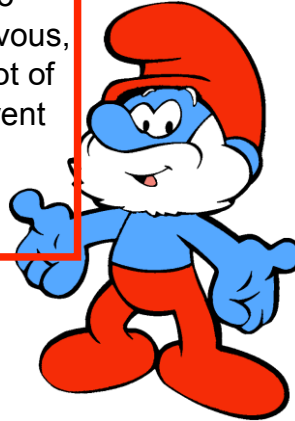
* Photos of places help pre-scientists visualize places. Hand drawn text makes letters feel more personalized. Different font colors are fun!

- * Encouraging pre-scientist to try new things!
- * Acknowledging potential challenges/hesitations humanizes STEM pen pals.

Sometimes working on a new project or trying things out of our comfort zone can seem very scary, but I recommend that you try new things even when you don't feel confident in your abilities. An example for me was a project I began working on last year; I am helping a few companies from my city to write user manuals for a mechanical ventilator that's being used to help patients with coronavirus.

* Being vulnerable humanizes you and assures pre-scientist it's OK to be nervous/resistant

When a former boss called me to invite me to work with them, I accepted but was very nervous, I didn't want to make mistakes and spent a lot of time researching what I had to do. As time went by, I learned a lot with my co-workers and realized that it's ok to ask questions or ask for help in tasks I wasn't sure how to do.



Here is a picture of the ventilator I worked on, my teammates have nicknamed it 'Papa Smurf' because it's blue! Do you think they look alike?

Something important to always remember is that it's ok to feel confused sometimes and rethink what you would like to do. I remember that when I was in high school, I was always so frightened that I changed my mind about what I wanted to study like 10 times! Talking with my friends and professors about what I was feeling then was what helped me choose Biomedical Engineering as a major.

I also struggled a lot with science when I was younger. Whenever you learn about science try to think about things you've seen that use science; for example, if you've ever been to the beach, try to remember how it felt and how the sea changed depending on the weather and the time of day. You can also watch YouTube videos to get a visual image of what you're learning, here's a neat video by AtomicSchool that explains the ocean's tides: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3RdkXs8BibE>.

To answer your last questions,

1. I like playing Minecraft and Mario Sunshine.
2. My favorite subject is also math!
3. My favorite candy is a Mexican candy called 'Kranky', they taste like cornflakes with chocolate:
4. My favorite chips are sour cream & onion Pringles!
5. I use android.



I look forward to your next letter and I wish you all the best this new year!

Sincerely,

Ana Cris