

August 11, 2015

Dear Seaside School District and OSAA Officials,

I am writing this letter on behalf of my nephew, Javion Smith. Javion is currently a junior at Seaside High School. Javion came to live with me, his uncle, in February of 2015. I enrolled Javion at Seaside High School on February 17th, 2015. Prior to his transition to Seaside High School, my nephew attended school in Louisiana and attended Beaverton High School where he struggled academically and socially. While living in Louisiana, Javion struggled academically and socially and was getting into fights daily. Javion's mother decided to relocate to Beaverton prior to his freshman year in high school. Javion again fell into the wrong crowd, struggled academically and socially, was truant from school, and ultimately found himself in trouble with the law after an incident where he was caught shoplifting. Despite his mom trying to relocate him, it proved to be very difficult for his mother to manage having a full time job and being a single parent of three children.

Javion's mother and I felt it was important that he be provided positive male influence and guidance. His mother and I determined that I was the best person in his life to provide this guidance. Additionally, his mother and I felt it would be beneficial for Javion to attend a smaller school where he could receive more personalized attention and not get lost in the crowd. In order to provide that opportunity, however, Javion would have to move from Beaverton to the North Coast with me. Before being allowed to move, Javion and I came to an agreement that he would have to be passing all of his classes before being allowed to move. Javion met that requirement and has continued to grow academically (passed all of his spring classes) under the tutelage of his IEP case manager at Seaside High School, has not been truant from school, and has not received one discipline referral since attending Seaside High School. Additionally, Javion has improved his social skills and has surrounded himself with a positive group of friends that have been a great influence on him. Many of these friends participate in high school athletics and Javion would like to participate with his friends.

As a coach and participant of athletics, I fully understand the positive influence that athletics can have on a young man's life. I believe that participation in athletics will further his development of these skills and provide him the necessary structure to continue to improve academically.

Javion is a great young man that needs a fresh start. I ask that you not only consider, but graciously approve Javion's athletic eligibility so he may continue to gain the necessary tools of a young maturing man.

Sincerely,

Nikita Smith