

August  
September 12, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Elizabeth Bocanegra, mother to Angel Perez, a student at Marshfield High School. This morning we were informed that Angel is ineligible to play football this season due to not having enough credits toward graduation. He is half a credit short at the moment. I am asking for you to consider giving him a hardship this year. My son had a football injury in 2013. Broke his tailbone and it wasn't until the following year that we realized a cyst had grown around the tail bone in which surgery was required to remove it. This was in June 2014. First surgery was unsuccessful and they had to go in there a 2<sup>nd</sup> time in December of 2014. The recovery on each surgery was of six months. They left the wound open to heal from the inside out. He missed quite a bit of school during these times. Some days were good, some days were not so good. He missed out on wrestling season that year due to having the wound open. I kept in touch with teachers at this time, picking up packets of homework, but with all that, he fell pretty far behind. That was not the only problem. His self-esteem went from high to low. He would go back to school and everything felt foreign to him. He gave up. I saw my son give up. I heard him say he was too stupid to catch up. All the advice and efforts I could give to him meant very little at the time. During a parent conference in April, I brought Angel in with me, I informed all of his teachers where he was at on a personal level. They worked with him, he found the wit to try again. He realized that the attitude he had was not going to get him to where he needed to go. He went from failing every single class to failing two. Now as a single mom, that was hard. No mother every wants child to fail "only two classes". Just last week he had his last treatment of silver nitrate on the healing wound. He will need a last surgery next summer. This is very important for him, for me, to see my son ready to take on his Junior year with all the confidence to pass all his classes. Today, I am sure my son finally understands that there is no room for failing anymore. There is no room for feeling sorry for yourself even when you do experience hardship. Please consider giving him this hardship. It would make a great deal of difference in his education. It motivates him. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Liz Bocanegra

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Liz Bocanegra". The signature is fluid and personal, with the "L" and "B" being particularly prominent.