



August 18, 2015

Dear Mr. Tom Welter,

Riverdale High School is seeking a hardship appeal for grade deficiency and satisfactory progress toward graduation for Grover Lines an incoming sophomore at our school. Grover has endured major medical issues throughout his freshman year. In the paragraphs below we have explained the overwhelming issues that Grover has faced, and dealt with.

In September of last year, Grover started to experience lots of pain and other physical issues that resulted in him missing school on and off. At first, it was unclear what the problem was. Eventually, his pediatrician referred him to a gastroenterologist, and within 10 minutes of the appointment, he was admitted to for inflammatory bowel disease, later determined to be severe acute ulcerative colitis. While in the hospital he was treated first with steroids and then a biologic medication to try to retard the inflammation in his colon. Ultimately, neither worked, and he had to have his colon removed. The surgery was a three stage process: first, the colon is removed and a colostomy bag is used. A second surgery is conducted to remove part of the rectum, and the third surgery reconnects the remaining part of the large intestine to the remaining part of the rectum. In the year that follows, the large intestine “learns” to be colon-like, but in that time, patients go to the bathroom up to 15 times a day and still experience pain and sleep disruption.

During his first hospitalization, he was in hospital a total of 39 days, had 6 blood transfusions, 3 plasma transfusions, 2 major surgeries, one minor surgery, and passed a kidney stone. He came home on heavy pain killers and was unable to go back to school with any consistency before winter break. In hospital, he had to be on TPN, a form of liquid nutrition, which gave him two blood clots. At home, he had to take two blood thinner shots daily, which made him susceptible to bruising and unable to engage in any real physical activity. Thankfully, those clots have dissipated.

In early January, he had his second surgery, which required hospitalization as well as heavy pain killers when he returned home. Again, he was unable to attend school with any consistency, in part because of the pain and discomfort, but also because he was emotionally and physically exhausted by what he was going through. He had the finally surgery (to reconnect his digestive system) in mid-March, but suffered complications and had to have emergency surgery. In total, he spent 51 days in hospital since October 13th.

Because of the urgent need to go to the bathroom, after his third surgery, he was given heavy sleep aids to make him sleep through the urge to go to the bathroom. They left him very groggy in the morning, and though he tried to go back to school, he was too exhausted physically by the whole process to do it. He has spent most of his days taking medication and sleeping, trying to restore some normalcy and predictability to his physical health.

Grover has endured something no one his age should have to go through and over the summer has made tremendous strides to not only return to school, but the soccer field as well. We are in full support of Grover's hardship, and our school will continue to support him academically as well.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request. As you can see, through no fault of his own, Grover has had to endure a major medical hardship. We hope that you see it in your heart to grant this hardship that will allow Grover to heal emotionally as well as physically.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paula Robinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Paula Robinson
Principal
Riverdale High School