

My name is Kaelina M. Maddox and I have been attending school in Dallas, Oregon for almost six years now. Before I moved to Dallas I lived in the Portland Metro area. In seventh grade I transferred from Dexter McCarty Middle School to Fowler Middle School in Tigard, Oregon. My family was going through a rough time so we decided to move again, and this time we chose a smaller community and Dallas fit our expectations perfectly. So, in the year of 2010 I began school at LaCreole Middle School. I was an Honor Roll student two years in a row, a leadership student, I played fastpitch softball, and I was a part of my middle school dance team. During my freshman year, I was going through a very hard time. My parents are divorced and I went from seeing my dad everyday to seeing him once every three to four months. Him and I were slowly drifting apart and later that year my counselor diagnosed me with depression. My grades began to slip and not only me, but my family was worried. I decided that I want to catch up with my credits and not be behind so I started summer school. During summer school I lost one person that was not only my best friend and role model, but someone who meant everything to me. My brother Andrew committed suicide. Unfortunately, I was not able to finish summer school. As sophomore year approached I promised myself that I was going to give it my best effort. My electives were mostly classes that would help me catch up with credits that I needed. I talked to my school counselor about getting a mentor, and my mentor helped a lot by keeping me organized and on top of my classes. Later that year my two friends and I were involved in a car accident. I had whiplash, rolled ankle, sprained wrist, alignment issues, and three out of four of my rotator cuffs in my right shoulder were completely torn. My right arm and shoulder were in a sling for four months and I had constant physical therapy and orthopedic appointments which involved me missing classes. During my junior year, I continued my online classes and even retook classes. I was able to catch up with three classes. I was very proud of myself, and so was my family. It felt great again to be the student I was back in middle school. I have better friends, an awesome mentor, and an amazing counselor who is always there for me when I needed to talk. I was going to continue my online classes during the summer, but my family didn't have enough money. This year I am going to be a student of the graduating class of 2016. I couldn't be more excited. I have to admit, this is not how I pictured my high school years. One thing I had wished looking back on my freshman, sophomore, and junior year was being more involved in my school. This year I am wanting to step out of my comfort zone and join my high school cheer team. The Athletic Director wanted to meet with me and discuss my credits. When we discussed the OSAA guidelines, I was one and half credits away from being able to cheer. I shared my story with Mr. Larson and he said I could write a letter to OSAA explaining my story on why my grades dropped. If I am able to cheer I will do everything that I can in my power to improve my grades. My plan for my senior year is to have a full schedule and continue my online classes. Not only am I having a full schedule but, I am taking two extra classes instead of electives that will prepare me for my state math and writing test, which I need to pass in order to graduate. No matter what happens, my plan is buckle down, stay on top, and recover my credits.

Sincerely,



Kaelina M. Maddox