

7547 NW Skyline Blvd.
Portland, Oregon 97229
August 27, 2015

Peyton Chapman & Jeff Peeler
Lincoln High School
1600 SW Salmon St
Portland, Oregon 97205

Re: Dinesen Bacher, Student ID 226978, Eligibility Request for Cross Country Athletics

Dear Ms. Chapman & Mr. Peeler:

The purpose of this letter is to request your help in obtaining eligibility for Dinesen to participate in LHS Cross Country Team Meets this fall season. To that end, I would like to document the reasons that Dinesen was home schooled this past academic year, the results he achieved in that year, and the justification for this hardship request.

Dinesen both attended LHS for his freshman and sophomore years, and competed in Cross Country for the 2012 and 2013 seasons. He passed 7 courses in each of his sophomore year semesters. In 2014, I notified you that Dinesen would be home schooled for the 2014-15 year, and I completed the Home School Notification form for him in a timely way for him to compete that year (MESD notification 8/29/14, MESD acknowledgement letter 9/9/14). The OSAA Representation Eligibility Certificate was filed in your office at that time. The MESD letter indicated he would need to be tested 18 months from 8/19/14, however we decided to re-enroll him in LHS as of June, 2015, and completed enrollment that month.

The reason we decided to do home school last year was Dinesen's lack of maturity in his approach to school, as evidenced by teacher's comments such as: "...has not performed up to his potential...", repeatedly not completing assignments, not preparing for class, not accepting direction from authority, and not taking personal responsibility for managing his time regarding school work as well as chores at home. We judged that having him start his critically important junior year in that state would be a serious mistake.

We faced a similar situation with Dinesen's older sister Eloise Bacher, and the home school year in her case was very successful, as she worked at two bookstores (PCC and Audubon) to establish a routine and develop responsible behavior patterns. It was very eye-opening for her to work with adults on a daily basis, and see their motivation to succeed in the workplace. She described the experience in her college application essay, and after college graduation has achieved a full time position at Powell's Books. At

the time, the LHS Principal was Peter Hamilton, who indicated this was a completely acceptable path, and she returned to LHS to graduate and also competed in LHS athletics with no eligibility issue.

Our plan for Dinesen was therefore similar to Eloise's: develop responsible behavior patterns, work at real jobs to lead to an understanding of the value of school, learn to take direction from authority figures, and develop personal discipline regarding attendance/punctuality and work assignments. In addition to work, Dinesen was to complete Eagle Scout project and rank advancement work, which often involves planning, writing, and coordination with others to complete significant tasks, both as a community volunteer and as a leader in his Boy Scout Troop. In no way did we intend this to be a substitute for his junior year academically; on the contrary, it was designed to help make his upcoming junior year successful.

Dinesen sought employment on his own, arranging for interviews, creating a resume, and obtaining references. He was hired for the fall season at Plumper Pumpkins, a farm which provides activities for retail customers in September through Halloween. This was followed by employment at Bales Thriftway as a Courtesy Clerk. Dinesen transitioned from these jobs to a full time position at Cornell Farm retail nursery, where he performed a variety of responsibilities. (I am enclosing a letter from Ed Blatter, owner of Cornell Farm, regarding Dinesen's activities there.)

We have seen significant growth in Dinesen's maturity through the last year. He has made huge progress both as a leader in his scout troop and completion of Eagle Scout requirements. He has managed his time in a more adult way, with punctual attendance at all his job sites, and has performed extremely well at all three jobs – they have all requested that he return. He did not appreciate the significance of his behavior at first, but through the year has accepted increased responsibilities and can now be seen as someone to be counted on. His social relationships with friends at LHS have been very important for him to maintain, and he has been resourceful at creating events for groups of friends to attend, usually cooking all the food himself. You may be aware that it is very difficult for students to maintain contact and plan activities in an environment where there is no social internet access (such as our home) and the friends' lifestyles are often based on spontaneous, not planned, activities.

I believe if Dinesen were not allowed to compete with the LHS Cross Country team this season, it would be an unreasonable hardship for him because:

- 1) We had no notification of a home school test requirement for eligibility on the Cross Country team, even though it was known to the coach in 2014 that Dinesen was competing as a home school athlete, Dinesen participated in team practices with the coach all summer to prepare for this season as an LHS student, and the MESD letter we received indicated a test requirement 18 months after starting home school (6 months from now). Also, this test was not required for our daughter Eloise who went through a similar academic/athletics sequence at LHS.
- 2) He is in a very unique situation, having an academic eligibility issue as a fall athlete transferring in from home school in his 4th year of eligibility – PPS has the authority to grant this eligibility

based on his work the past year, but the situation has never occurred and so they have not developed a process for it.

- 3) His academic performance the entire time he has been enrolled at LHS (4 semesters) has exceeded the OSAA academic eligibility requirements, and he has been a positive member of the Cross Country Team for 3 years, meeting all behavior guidelines for athletes and the team rules. Given his home school situation, he did not have a reasonable opportunity to obtain the credits that are now identified as a deficiency.
- 4) Keeping from competing with his social group of friends on the Cross Country team is an undue hardship given his longstanding participation on the team, his significant efforts to maintain those friendships during his home school year, and the effort he has made through practices this year to improve as a JV runner. He should be allowed to continue as a peer with this group.

Thank you very much for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Fred Bacher