



## Letter of Explanation

To: Tom Welter

From: Mike Hood

Date: August 31, 2015

**RE: Eligibility request - letter of explanation - Angie Rivet**

Angie Rivet transferred to Westside Christian this summer. Her sister currently attends Westside as well. Upon completing our eligibility check, it came to our attention that Angie is short the necessary credits to be on track to graduate and also has a grade deficiency. She is currently taking summer course to get back on track. She is currently on the girls' soccer team and hopes to compete this season.

From the conversation I had with her mother, it is my belief that her participation on the girls' soccer team will aid in her transition to Westside Christian as well as help her gain confidence and a support system to deal with her health issues.

The letter that follows is from Lisa and David Rivet, Angie's parents. The letter details the sequence of events leading up to this request.

Thank you for considering the eligibility request for Angie Rivet. Please let me know if there are any other documents needed or questions you may have regarding this request.

Sincerely,

Mike Hood  
Athletic Director  
Westside Christian High School  
503.430.4960  
hood@wchsonline.org

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Dear OSSA,

I'm writing in detail the events that led up to Angie not meeting the eligibility requirements for OSSA for the fall 2015 soccer season.

Last Fall Angie started her freshman year at Lakeridge High School with much enthusiasm. She was having the full high school experience, making new friends, going to sporting events and tackling a new, demanding school schedule. Even with an ADHD diagnosis, she had always been able to keep her grades up.

She got strep throat more than once during the year and a few other illnesses that caused her to miss several days of school. By the end of December, she was so far behind she couldn't catch up. Her first semester grades were not good. She was excited to begin the second semester with a fresh start with every intention of doing better. Every time she was able to catch up, something would happen and she'd fall behind in her studies again. While we knew it wasn't an aptitude issue, she wasn't totally honest with us about what was going on. I only heard from one of her teachers during this whole time that there might be some issues. By February, she was so overwhelmed with anxiety and depression that her attendance was spotty at best. Her self-confidence was shattered, she was embarrassed and her faith was shaken.

By March we were meeting with her guidance counselor and sought out treatment from her primary care physician, a psychologist and a psychiatrist to address her changed behavior, low self-esteem and the inability to pull herself together. We just wanted her to finish the school year.

March 18<sup>th</sup> was her first visit with the psychiatrist, Dr. Rittman. She was diagnosed with ADHD (again) and a general anxiety disorder. She was also displaying several symptoms of depression. Medication was prescribed and she started frequent sessions with Dr. Rittman and a psychologist, Dr. Dana Otto.

While we were waiting for the medication to take affect and to find the right drug and dosage, we began meeting with her school counselor, Lee Brown, in early May. We discussed all of the options and school programs to try to salvage as much of the semester as possible. She literally couldn't get herself up and to school. She was so overwhelmed with the back-log of assignments that needed to be completed; she was paralyzed from accomplishing anything. Interesting enough, Mr. Brown says this is common and he sees it all the time.

After much deliberation, on May 11<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Brown's recommendation was to officially withdraw Angie from Lakeridge and have her take online classes through Onsite, a program Lakeridge provides. We filled out the forms and provided the doctor's diagnosis. He sent the paperwork to the District office for approval and said it would take a couple of days. We were anxious to have her start the online courses ASAP. After several emails and phone calls to find out why the approval process was taking so long, on June 12<sup>th</sup>, he still had no response from the district office and he was going on

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summer vacation. We were on our own and precious time was being wasted that Angie could have started summer school.

We called the Lake Oswego district office ourselves and the paperwork was buried on someone's desk. They told me that we were misinformed, that Lakeridge doesn't contract with Onsite during the summer and we'd have to find and pay for a different program. The Assistant Superintendent for Academics and Student Services, Joe Morelock, apologized that they dropped the ball and we would be reimbursed for Angie's online classes.

By June 16<sup>th</sup>, she was enrolled with RedComet to take Freshman English and Algebra I. Angie also made the decision on her own to not tryout for her club soccer team. She felt that heavy commitment would conflict with her ability to focus on her studies, her singing (her other passion) and high school sports.

At the beginning of May, Angie said she wanted to shadow at Westside and was considering transferring her sophomore year. She realized on her own that the environment and culture at Lakeridge wasn't going to be any different, or enable her to thrive. She lost all confidence in the teachers and administration, not to mention the bad choices and bad behavior among her peers and other students. She knew Westside would provide more personal attention and a healthier, stable environment for her to succeed. She also desired to be around other kids that shared her faith and her values. She was very excited about playing soccer for Mike Staropoli and the rare opportunity to be on the same team as her senior sister.

Currently, Angie has reduced her therapy visits as the medication is working and she is back to a positive and healthy outlook and demeanor. While it's distressing on so many levels that she still has to make up credits, she has been committed to putting all of this behind her and moving on. She's been practicing with the Westside team since mid-August, made the Varsity team and is anxious for school to begin.

We've been working closely with Mr. Ball, Westside's administrator to craft a schedule for Angie this year and future planning to ensure she graduates in 2018.

There are so many factors that led us to this point. The OSSA eligibility issue couldn't be a factor when we were making the right choices for getting her healthy and back on track. Again, in her best interest, not playing this year would be a tremendous setback for her. Angie has taken responsibility for her part in all of this, but Lakeridge and the district failed her.

Given the fact that Angie has already missed competing with her team for the season opener, I implore you to review all of the facts, the success of her summer classes (due by mid-Oct.), but are complete, just waiting for a few final assignments to be graded. Given the effort and steps she's taken to get better, she shouldn't be penalized further for this sequence of events, or the fact that her ineligibility wasn't brought to our attention sooner. Again, Lakeridge didn't send the transcripts immediately when requested. I had

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to call and have them faxed to Westside after being told they would be sent out in another week because they were busy.

Thank you for your consideration and understanding.

Lisa & David Rivet

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8200 SW Pfaffle Street, Tigard, OR 97223 Phone: 503.697.4711 Fax: 503.697.4605 [www.wchsonline.org](http://www.wchsonline.org)