



David and Jennifer Brown

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Three Rivers District, Hardship Committee

Dear Committee,

We are writing this letter on behalf of our, Neil McCarthy. Neil is transferring to Lakeridge starting his upcoming sophomore year. He spent his freshman year at Grant High School in northeast Portland. We are writing this letter to request that Neil be permitted to participate in the Lakeridge athletics programs.

Neil is a very social boy with a kind and generous personality. He always makes a presence when he enters a room. He enjoys school, especially high school, and likes the opportunity to meet new people and friends.

Neil went to Grant with high hopes. It is a "local" school based on where we live. He had friends from the junior high school that were going there. And of course, he, and we, felt the tradition of athletics were strong at the high school. When Neil first entered Grant, he enjoyed school. Football was starting and Neil began making new friends, his academics started out strong as well - mostly As and Bs were on his first report card. Candidly, as parents, we were impressed with the level of academics in the classrooms and by and large, the teachers were quite good. So we had no complaints about that aspect of Grant,

In late autumn to January, things began to change. The classroom structure was challenged in many of Neil's classes. Students would regularly come to class late; teachers were not respected and were generally not treated well. There are several examples of kids engaging with their cell phone while in class. The language and curse words were a normality. It just wasn't the structure that Neil needed to be successful in providing some stability in the classroom.

This was illustrated in 2-3 clear examples. First, Neil's 1st semester math class needed to be split since it was too large. Unfortunately, Neil ended up with a new teacher even though Neil did so well with the original teacher. The new teacher had no control on the class and his teaching style didn't resonate well. Neil got a D in this class. The rest of his grades were Bs (see attached). One time, in front of the class, the teacher told Neil that he was dumb and a waste of time. This embarrassed Neil greatly. David called the school and Neil was transferred immediately to the original class. Here Neil had to catch up on the old and learn the new material. Neil ended up with a C in that class.

The second incident is something that happened regularly. Several times, kids would be asked to leave due to their being disruptive. After complaining, they would leave but sometimes had to do so with the hall

security guards. We won't share more but the point holds: the structure was not optimal for Neil's style of learning.

On the athletic front, Neil did well in the three sports he participated in: football, basketball and track. Although he did well, he would get unnerved by the antics from teammates. Drug selling would occur and one time, one of the players brought a taser to the locker room and tased a teammate. He got caught and we thought that expulsion was to be the outcome but instead, only suspension.

Having said all this, Neil saw a different classroom environment when he toured Lakeridge. He saw structure and obedience. We are all comfortable with how Lakeridge runs the ship and are confident that Neil will do so well there.

While Neil is a social kid, being able to participate in sports will only strengthen Neil's ability to succeed. Sports requires the student to be regimented in their studies. Neil thrives when he can set a structure for getting his work done...especially with the time constraints students often face. The social aspects of school athletics cannot be overstressed here either. It's a great way to get comfortable with a new school when you can make the friendships that happen on a football team, or soccer, LaCrosse, etc.

So with all this in mind, we respectfully ask the committee to let Neil engage right away with athletics at Lakeridge. It will only be a benefit - especially for Neil.

Thank you in advance for your consideration in this matter.

Regards,,



David and Jennifer Brown