

Dear Three Rivers League,

My name is Neil McCarthy and I am a transfer student, transferring from Grant High School to Lakeridge. I will be a sophomore this coming school year, and I live in northeast Portland. I'm writing this letter to you to hopefully give you some background as to why I feel transferring to another school is necessary for me to thrive as a student, and to also ask that you consider me to be able to play sports at Lakeridge this coming school year.

Although I had a decent academic year, I feel that some classroom incidents sometimes made it hard for me to get full lessons being taught. There were a few occasions where students would get in trouble, lose their temper and either swear at our teacher or damage property in the classroom. Maybe I was a bit sheltered where I went to school before high school, because I had never had these things happen in class. There were more than a few times where I felt a bit unsafe during instruction time.

Also, from late fall to late spring, I had, what I felt, an unfair situation in that I was changed into a different math class. The new teacher of the class was much older and did not deal well with the students in the class since he was not accustomed to that type of class environment. Well he didn't treat students well in general. It wasn't just the fact that I wasn't getting his teaching concepts, but he really embarrassed me in class one day during a lesson. I asked him a question and he yelled really loud at me saying I was being dumb and that I was a waste of time. It made me really

nervous because while he was yelling, he was almost running up to my desk, at the same time.

As you might know, I like to play sports. There was an incident where a player brought a taser to the locker room and tased another player on our team. It was pretty scary, even for me, who doesn't usually get scared that easily.

I do understand that things happen at all schools, but as far as doing my best in the classroom, I felt that the environment stopped me from doing the best I could. Getting good grades is really important for me because I want to get into a good college. I feel that I need to be at a school that is recognized for their high academics and expectations in the classroom. To be completely honest, I'm like any normal kid, and having a lot of structure in the classroom can sometimes be not so fun. I'm the type of kid that, if I don't have structure and a set of expectations, I will not be focused along with the other kids who are being distractions.

My family and I had a few choices of schools that would be good choices and a good fit for me. Lakeridge has everything that fits my learning style and personality. Because I played in the PIL, Lakeridge athletics wasn't on my radar as far as how well they did, who their coaches were, what league they were in...etc. I did know that their academics were high and that students get what would be similar to a private school education. I know there will be more pressure for me as far as grades go, but I do better when I have some pressure as opposed to having none.

I'm very excited to start the school year and be a part of a school I feel proud to say I go to. It would be even better if I could participate in sports my first year , not just to make friends quicker, but because playing sports helps me stay organized with my time and being forced to get my work done before I practice. Thank you for considering letting me to play.

*Neil McCarthy*

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