

Tate Barrow  
2868 SW Lucas Ave.  
Troutdale, OR 97060

August 20, 2015

Chris Coleman  
Athletic Director  
Reynolds High School

Mr. Coleman,

My first years at Reynolds High school were very tough, especially my freshman year and part of my Sophomore year. I truly believe that skipping a couple classes frequently lead me to make bad choices. However, the start of freshman year I encountered the RHS soccer team. The beginning of the year was a blast for not just me, but my family to enjoy watching me play on the field. The start of the school year was going pretty well with soccer and grades, but toward the end of the year soccer was over and I lost motivation to keep my grades up. I failed a couple classes my Freshman year, and even more during my Sophomore year. My summer from Freshman to Sophomore year was fun, but I did not focus as much as I should on soccer and school. When the summer ended, school seemed like it was not for me.

I know I should have put more effort into my classwork Freshman year, but I did not. I allowed myself to follow the wrong path and instead of attending the classes I needed to complete, I skipped class and made bad choices with others. By the time Sophomore year started I put myself into a situation where I felt like I was unable to attend class because I put myself too far behind in classwork. While I was not in class, I would hang around the school or my neighborhood doing unproductive thing. The counselor at Reynolds High School was very unhelpful and made me feel even worse than I already did about falling behind. Luckily, Reynolds Learning Academy gave me another chance. I transferred to RLA after they accepted my application. RLA put me back on my feet and back on to the track of attaining a High School Diploma. RLA motivated and pushed me to become not just a better student but has influenced me to have a different mind set on my future.

My soccer experience during Freshman year made me realize how much of a great time I had playing for a club called Eastside United on the classics team. Soccer has revolved around my life since I was very little, and it was unfortunate that I missed Sophomore and Junior year at Reynolds because I could of been a benefit for the RHS soccer team, and the soccer team would

have been a great benefit for me too. I want to redeem what I missed out on in the past and show the people who I have disappointed that I can complete what I missed and how much soccer means to me. Soccer has been around my entire childhood, which is the main point of this letter. Growing up with soccer did such a great benefit in my lifestyle, and I want to keep that lifestyle and keep soccer in my blood while I keep experiencing life. Playing soccer helps my concentration in class, builds my teamwork skills, and the RHS team encourages me to be the best I can. I not only want to play, but I need to play.

My education to this day has been improving so much because RLA gave me an opportunity to attend a program called Middle College arranged by Jenn Edgar at the Community College. At the college I will be making up the rest of my credits for high school while earning college credits. They have a required PE class and the opportunity to play more soccer to keep my body fit and in shape. I want to continue a healthy lifestyle and social life with the RHS soccer team. Finishing High School is very important for my future, but I also see soccer as an important part too. Middle a College has allowed me to finish high school and begin my college career. I hope to play on a college team someday.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tate Barrow". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large loop at the beginning of the first name.

Tate Barrow