

Hello,

My name is Jonathan-Barron-Calderon and I am a junior at Tigard High School. I am writing this letter to explain my situation and how I started getting off track with my school work.

I have always had a very hard time focusing on the lessons in my classes. In the beginning of high school we discovered I have ADHD. My teachers were not aware until I got comfortable taking my medication. In the beginning of sophomore year my teachers were all aware I was on medication for my ADHD. One of the biggest study problems I have is retaining knowledge and processing information. Often times I would read something and instantly forget what I just read, forcing me to reread things many times. I was uncomfortable and embarrassed to inform my teachers of my issues until my sophomore year.

Another factor in my school troubles was life at home. My parents were getting divorced. It was hard to focus on school because most of the day I was thinking about how I was only going to live with my mom and not both parents. When they divorced, it was very hard on my mother, sister and I because we did not have a place to live. My uncle eventually let us live in a room until we found better. All 3 of us lived in the one room together. My sophomore year, my mom married someone new. We get along great and he is just right for her, but we could not live in 1 room with 4 people. Everyone had to get jobs except me because of my age. It hurt me to see where we were living and I couldn't help make money. I always thought we would be in a nice house. Now that I am old enough, I have to get a job and help my family out paying bills and other stuff we will need. My family has worked extremely hard and we have a better house now.

I was not eligible to play my sophomore season because of this. I did not deserve to be. But after I found out I wasn't eligible I started to work harder than I ever had even though this stuff at home was still going on. I worked very hard to get my grades up and pass my classes. My freshman year and half of my sophomore year my mom did not have enough money to get me a tutor because we were in a bad situation. But in the winter and spring I got a math tutor and it really helped. It was the first time I really understood what was going on and I got a B. My mom is going to be getting me tutors for all the topics I need help in. I also will be taking 2-3 grad point classes to recover my credits. My teachers told me they noticed how hard I was working and if I ever get stuck on homework that I should come see them for help. My high school soccer coach and I have made a plan to get grade checks and homework help throughout the season and school year. I have talked with my counselor a lot as well about getting back on pace to graduate. I have written out a specific plan that I will follow about all the classes I will take and the credits I will need to get on track. I have attached it as well as my contract with my soccer coach.

Soccer has been everything to me and is the only sport I love. My dream is to become a professional soccer player. I have been playing soccer since I was 5 years old, I have never stopped playing soccer. All I was thinking of is what to do for me to play. All I ever wanted to do is play soccer and no other sport. When I have free time the one thing I always want to do is play. I understand now that school is most important, especially for me to keep playing the sport I love. I plan on working very hard to get back on track and I wish I understood this sooner. I really hope you can understand my situation and allow me to compete. It would mean the world. Last year I did not deserve it, but this year I really worked hard to be eligible. My counselor and coach can speak about that as well. Thank you for reading my letter and considering my plan.

All the best,

Jonathan-B-Calderon