

August 21, 2015

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter to recommend my brother Andres Nunez.

I'll start off with my brother's first year at South Salem High School. He started off great, once Football season was over. That's when his grades started to go down, and he started missing school. One of the main reasons was that our parents were going through a bad divorce. Andres would then begin to worry about whom he would stay with, and what the whole outcome would bring during the separation.

There wasn't any support coming from our parents towards my brother's education and his well-being. With all going on, he saw his friends as an escape and would repeatedly stay the night at their home, sometimes it would be for a few days or even a week. With too much stress and not enough attention being put towards him, he then started to not worry about his grades or school. Due to the circumstances, the grades started falling, attendance was rare, and so all the credits he needed were slowly drifting away.

That would happen for about two years, both freshmen and sophomore year. I took it amongst myself to do something about it and get him to be able to graduate by his senior year. Although it was a difficult situation, I would not give up on him. So I reached out to the S.S.H.S. staff and they gladly informed me of ways to help him be able to graduate on time.

We found the quickest, yet most challenging way for him to catch up on his credits. Our option was to register him for the Oregon Youth Challenge Program. During the 6 month process, Andres would then learn the values of education and hard work. The first visitation they allowed for him to come home for a few days. I could already tell he wasn't the same; he would answer with "Sir/Ma'am" and would be thankful for anything given to him.

Andres began to develop and understand the reason to keep going and continue for a higher education. While at the program he indulged himself on doing his homework and committing to working out. As well as acquiring an administrative assistant role there at the office.

Six months past, graduation day arrived. Our whole family showed up to support Andres. This celebration brought tears to my parent's eyes, it made them realize what they had put him through and apologized for the times they've missed. We've grown as a family and bonded in a way some could only imagine, even though we had a few downs, we managed to get back up and move forward.

Since Andres has been playing football, he's been home, he participates in family events. All he talks about is football, and how excited he is to play with all of his buddies. A bond they all have and have pushed each other to perform the best they can. It would be of great appreciation from our family for Andres to be part of the South Salem football program. Not only because they have a great program, but because this school and team will help him grow and achieve his goals.

Sincerely, *Stephanie Nunez*