

August 27, 2015

To whom it may concern:

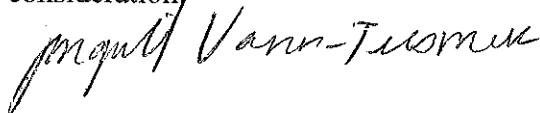
I am writing this letter on behalf of Mohamud "Mudi" Mohamed. Mudi moved to the United States in 2008 from the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya. Prior to moving to the United States Mudi had no formal schooling. Mudi's native language is Maay Maay, and he only began to learn English upon his arrival. Since arriving in Portland Mudi has moved between six schools, creating a large disruption in his already challenging schooling. Mudi is one of eight children and his parents struggle to work enough to provide for their family. Furthermore his parents speak very limited English and are not literate in English or Maay Maay. Despite all the above challenges Mudi has maintained good school attendance and an eagerness to do well.

Last spring Mudi advocated to receive a Special Education evaluation due to a very significant stutter. Mudi is insecure about his stutter and oftentimes will not speak up in class out of fear that others will tease him. There are also ongoing concerns from teachers regarding Mudi's comprehension skills. Part of the evaluation will involve determining if challenges with comprehension are a result of a learning disability or his status as an English Language Learner. The evaluation for Special Education is in process.

All of the above factors have left Mudi behind in school, and struggling to catch up. When you ask Mudi why it is so important that he be allowed to run, he will tell you it keeps him motivated to do well in school. Mudi will even say it motivates him to come to school. Athletics provides a structure after school, required tutoring, and keeps Mudi busy and "out of trouble." These are all factors that Mudi reports as important to him.

If Mudi is allowed to run he will be required to stay after practice two days a week to receive individualized tutoring. In addition he will be assigned to a mentor that will work with him on overall school success skills. Mudi has willingly agreed to both.

If you have further questions regarding Mudi please do not hesitate to contact me. Mudi assisted in writing this letter, but is also happy to provide more information. Thank you for your consideration.



Jonquil Vann-Tessmer
School Psychologist
Head Cross Country Coach
Roosevelt High School
503-916-5260 ext. 71462