

To whom it may concern,

Freshman year of high school, my mom decided to home school me against my will. I was constantly stuck at home as I was not allowed to go anywhere, and this caused many problems with my family and I. DHS had to become mildly involved at this point. By the time sophomore year came around, it was decided that I would live with my grandparents on my mom's side of the family and go to a public school, Lakeview High School. This school did not accept any of my credits from my freshman year, they said my transcript was invalid. So I started my sophomore year with no credits.

Sophomore year was a major struggle for me, I moved around from one relative to another because no one was willing to deal with me. I wasn't a horrible kid, I was simply emotionally scarred from being rejected and abandoned by so many people, and I was really struggling because of all that. My grades went up and down all year, but at the end of the year, I had A's, B's and only one C. I was in track that year and received an award for outstanding achievement from it. I also received special recognition from my math and art teachers. That summer, I spent my time in a lockdown facility, because of a lie my mom had fabricated and told DHS. I'm not sure what my mom said, but it was enough to keep me in lockdown facilities for around seven months. I began my first semester of junior year in a lockdown facility, and schooling there was all online. I only received two credits from that online schooling, because none of the staff were willing to help me make sure I was on track, and I had no clue how many credits I was earning. At this point in time, I was also very "shut down" from everything that had happened, and was struggling to complete my daily tasks, and just function in general. About four weeks before the start of the second semester, I was discharged from the lockdown facility. I had online classes, very close to being completed, that were dropped completely when I left the facility, and I was unable to get any credit for them. When I left the facility, I moved to a foster home in Grants Pass, OR. This new home was more stable than anything I was used to, and this helped me become more stable, emotionally, and mentally.

I began my second semester of junior year at North Valley High School. I managed to get all A's and B's, as well as a Certificate of Excellence from my history teacher. The school counselor was/is willing to work with me, and together we came up with a plan for me to graduate in 2016 with the rest of the seniors. My plan is take the more challenging core classes at North Valley, while I make up the easier core classes online. One of North Valley's math teachers offered to let me challenge Algebra I this year, so I will do that and gain a math credit. I will gain the rest of my missing credits (2) through volunteering for "Shelter Friends", a foster program partnered with the Josephine County Animal Shelter. Over this summer, I have gotten enough volunteer hours to equal 1 credit. I plan to gain the other credit by continuing to volunteer throughout this coming school year.

Now that I have laid everything out, it's time I explain why I feel joining the North Valley soccer team is important to me. I have been very hurt in the past and it caused me to shut down, now I realize it is time for me to let go and start putting myself out there. By joining soccer, I feel I will have a good opportunity to do this. I can work on my social skills, while having fun and moving around. I will be occupied, and have something productive to do, daily. I ask that you please consider allowing me to be a part of the team, this will really help me, not only now, but in the future too.

Thank you,

Mikaila Springer

