

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Mikaila Springer. She is a Foster Child who has been residing in my home and under my care since December 2014. Mikaila is a very bright and motivated individual who has been moved around many times over the last 4 years. She has not had a stable home or a consistent education since (I believe) age 13 or 14. Her freshman year was spent in Home School and for some reason the credits she earned for that year were not credited to her when she entered the Foster Program. She was also doing online schooling in residential care but when she was moved (usually before a credit was completed) she lost the work she had already done and had to start all over again.

Mikaila is very motivated to Graduate on time, with her class, and go to college. So far her plan is to take all the hard core classes at NVHS and the easier Core classes Online. She has been offered the opportunity to challenge one of her Math credits by her previous math teacher here at North Valley due to her excellent grades last year and her willingness to participate. She impressed many of her teachers and was presented with a "Certificate of Excellence" along with being a solid A/B student last year. The final 2 credits she needs will be completed through the volunteer work she does for the "Shelter Friends" a foster program that is partnered with the Josephine County Animal Shelter. She has already completed enough hours to gain 1 credit and will finish up the rest throughout the year. We have been working with Mr. Platt and this plan will allow her to graduate with her class.

Mikaila has proven that she thrives when she is given a stable environment and the opportunity to succeed. Many of the kids I have known in her position give up, drop out, or settle for less than they are capable of because of the frustration that their circumstances thrust onto them at such a young age. Mikaila has had some trouble feeling like she fits in and has put up an emotional wall to protect herself. I was surprised and impressed when she told me she wanted to join the soccer team. I feel like the opportunity to be a part of a team will help her with her lagging social skills. Don't get me wrong, Mikaila is a nice, friendly, smart girl; but she typically opts out of social situations that involve large groups and even though she knows this will be a challenge for her she is still trying to move forward and force herself into a situation that makes her feel uncomfortable. I am very proud of her for doing this and sticking it out even when she feels like giving up.

Please consider allowing Mikaila to remain on the Soccer team at North Valley so she can form some lasting relationships, good memories and so she can be part of something bigger and better than the situation that was dealt to her. This opportunity will help her tremendously and I would be forever grateful to you as well.

Thank You,

Shannon Clark