

To whom it may concern,

9-14-2015

I'm Matthew Siemsen, Maranda's father. I just wanted to lend my support to Maranda's wish to continue with her extra-curricular sport activities, as I feel it most important to her.

I'm happy to explain that there were a number of issues which led to Maranda achieving a less than normal grade point average during her last year of school in Boise. Without troubling you into too many of the less than pleasant details, essentially Maranda's attendance and focus on school was made complicated by a combination of factors, including having contracted mono. Prior to this, and for some time [years] Maranda has struggled to maintain her grade point average while her mother relocated them to several residences within only a few years in Boise, before that she was in the Lake Oswego school district, here in Oregon. After another move in 9th grade, Maranda needed a ride to school, as their new residence was further away than walking distance, so she had no choice but to rely on trying to wake her mother up every morning to get a ride to school. Her mother, was difficult to awaken and resistant to giving her rides and so Maranda was frequently late or tardy, or missed school altogether during various months throughout the year.

Despite having to take care of her brother while her mother frequently abandoned them in their home, and having to miss many days due to full-blown mono, she tried her best to keep up in school, and despite the difficult home life, she maintained adequate grades but missed a few key tests and therefore her grades were deemed 'incomplete'. Her only choice was to enroll into summer school, which she accepted and put her best foot forward to reclaim a decent end to her freshman year. And she did do well, as you can see in the attached, prior to her moving back here in Forest Grove and into my home, she achieved an A and a B respectively in her two make up summer school classes. I hope you'll find that is a testament to her potential for academic success.

While she was working toward completing her summer school, things went downhill for her home life and her mother was basically neglecting the children, and traveling out of state extensively. [That's a whole other story], and so long story short, CPS placed the children into Foster care, contacted me, I flew to Boise, ID and had a quick hearing where it was determined I take children back home to Oregon. A few weeks later and I'm excited to say I now have full custody of Maranda and her brother Alex. It's been very stressful getting both kids ready for school on such short notice, but the one thing I felt it important to do is get Maranda back into the sports she loved and did much of in her time in Idaho. It was literally one of the few happy things she could do to escape the drama at her home, and I can see how important sports are for her, and how happy it makes her. I know she will be a great asset to your team and many other sports teams here in her new school here in Forest Grove. I hope you agree that it was only a temporary set of circumstances that led to the grade issues while in the care of her mother in Idaho, and that that was not a true measure or example of Maranda's potential to maintain a normal grade-point average. I feel time will only prove and that she will demonstrate this and I have high expectations for her now that she has a healthy, stable, and happy home to go home to at the end of the day. She's been through a lot of unpleasant things the last 10 years; I'd like her to have a great, positive start to her new life here.

Please find it in your heart to allow her this once concession, to remain on the team she already loves, and to continue on with a fresh new academic start on an exciting new sophomore year.

I sincerely thank you for your consideration.



Matthew A. Siemsen
TSgt – USAF;
'Awesome Dad'