

To whom it may concern,

My name is Eric Stone and I am the father of Blayne Stone who is currently a junior at Yamhill Carlton High School.

Blayne was diagnosed with Social Anxiety Disorder around the time he was in 4th grade. We tried counseling and therapy which did not seem to help that much and I was against putting him on any type of medication. In 2009 we moved to Yamhill and Blayne made a friend that happened to play football. Myself having been a kid that had been a three sport student I always encouraged and tried to get Blayne to play sports but he always refused so I didn't push him. Now that he had a friend that played football he wanted to try it also. Football was the best therapy for him. Blayne literally changed overnight and he was a naturally gifted athlete even at that age. The change in him was phenomenal and he seemed like a completely different kid. Blayne even started wrestling which I coached.

The summer before Blayne's eighth grade year he started to change. He was more withdrawn started doing poor in school, skipping classes, not turning in school work, and choosing to hang around bad influences. I don't know what brought on the change but he was headed down a bad path. Blayne then started turning to illegal substances which as a father and police officer was very hard for me to take. Blayne continued this pattern of behavior and was put on probation through Yamhill County. I personally sent Blayne to two substance abuse treatment facilities but he continued the same behavior patterns. Blayne spent nearly two years away from home either in juvenile detention, group facilities, and eventually a correctional facility.

I think Blayne made the conscious decision to change his life and he realized none of the choices he made was making his life any better. Blayne took it upon himself to work hard on his school work while he was in North Coast Youth Correctional Facility. I was often informed that he would often do extra school work by his own choice. Once Blayne was released he had as many high school credits as his peers did. Blayne was released to my custody in February of 2015 and I immediately enrolled him in Yamhill Carlton High School.

I believe Blayne had a hard time adjusting back to an actual school setting as he had been basically institutionalized for two years during a pivotal time of intellectual and emotional development 14-16 years old. The only time he was able to see family was every other weekend for a couple hours. Blayne also had to adjust to being split between two households on top of adjusting to school as me and Blayne's mother divorced and now had new significant others. This was hard on him and his anxiety got the better of him on many occasions causing him school absences. His anxiety always becomes the worst when he does not have an outlet particularly sports.

One thing was always constant; Blayne could not wait to play football again. He talked about football months before he was released into my custody. He knew he had to wait until his junior year but he was always talking about it. Blayne has matured a lot over this last summer; he is focused and has goals set for himself. He wants to go into the military and knows he cannot do that without a high school

diploma. Blayne having to find out he could not play football because of his grades from last year was devastating to him as this was the one thing he really looked forward to and had been waiting to compete in since he came home.

I understand a school's responsibility is to first educate its students and everything else comes second but taking away such a big motivator such as football from a student and basing that on less than four months in school after having been through the transition he had to go through is unfair. I believe Blayne has had the time he needed to adjust and will show his teachers a completely different student this year. I hope he will be granted the opportunity to play as he is putting forth a great effort in continuing to practice and would be an asset to his team.

Sincerely,

Eric Stone

To whom it may concern,

My name is Blayne Stone and I am currently in my junior year at Yamhill-Carlton High School. In the summer of 2012 I chose to hang around people I shouldn't have and made a series of poor choices that ultimately ended in me being placed outside my home and away from my family. I spent two years of my life in group homes, treatment facilities, and eventually North Coast Youth Correctional Facility. While I was at North Coast I finally came to the realization that the choices I was making and the people I chose to associate with were doing nothing to make my life better. My choices also hurt those around me that cared for me the most. I decided to change my attitude and make an effort to make the right choices and decisions to make my life better and not negatively impact those around me.

When I came back to school in February of 2015 it was very difficult for me. It had been a long time since I had been in an actual school setting and there were a lot of distractions that I was not used to. I had trouble focusing and concentrating on my school work plus the adjustments I had to make getting used to two families since my parents had divorced while I was gone. My dad was now engaged and my mom was living with her new boyfriend. My school work suffered and my grades did not reflect my potential.

Football has been a huge part of my life since the sixth grade. I never played any sports before that and I also was diagnosed with a Social Anxiety Disorder. Football changed that for me. I made friends and doing as well as I did in football made it easier for me to make friends. Football also motivated me at that time to do well in school as if I didn't I wouldn't be able to play.

Now as a junior in high school I have missed out on two years of athletics and academics. I have had the time I needed to adjust to home and school. When I found out I was not able to play football I was devastated. Having dealt with the substance abuse issues and emotional problems I have had in the past, I believe football is an invaluable outlet for me personally both physically and mentally. I hope to be given the opportunity to play with my team as I have started this school year with a positive attitude on my attendance and school work.

Sincerely,

Blayne Stone

To whom it may concern

My name is Jerry Sutton I'm the head football coach at Yamhill /Carlton High School. I'm writing this letter in support of Blayne Stone and helping Him get headed to the right path for His future. I meant Blayne at the beginning of summer workouts. Blayne made several weight training workouts and our two seven on seven games. Blayne showed up for our camp and the beginning of football practices but was not yet eligible to participate. He needed to get cleared to practice by the school. In the process I found out about some of the problems we were facing in order for Blayne to be able to play. Blayne has been cleared by the school to practice with some exceptions, first be at school on every day, keep His grades c or better, keep a positive attitude and stay out of trouble, go to practice every day and be a positive role model for the other kids on our team for the hole month of September. The first two weeks have gone well for Blayne as far as these expectations. I'm sure that if we can continue to keep Blayne with our football program and mentor Him we can help Blayne in making good decision for His future. I'm sure that if Blayne could get cleared through a hard ship it would go a long way in the keeping Blayne on the right path. I've had several man to man talks with Blayne about doing the right things and making the right choses and He has really opened up and engaged in our discussions. I really believe in this kid and I'm proud of the improvements I've seen so far. I want to thank you for taking the time to read these letters and hoping we all can be a part of helping this be a success. Our team shirts carry the words Faith, Trust, Family on them, as a coaching staff and team we try to live it. With that said we do not what to leave any kid behind.

Sincerely

Coach Sutton

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Sutton".