



**Stanfield Secondary
School**

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September 30, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter of support on behalf of our new student, Justin Shelby, to advocate for him to have the opportunity to participate in our football program.

Based on what I have learned about Justin in the short time in which I've been acquainted, I know that he has experienced some significant losses and trials in his personal life, which have had and continue to have an enormous impact on him. His mother passed away approximately six years ago. His relationship with his father is strained and Justin has shared that he has endured feelings of rejection and "not being wanted" by his father in the past years following the loss of his mother.

Justin recently moved in with a relative here in Stanfield, with the goal of providing him with a more stable and supportive home environment. Due to the challenges Justin has faced in his personal life, he has moved and changed schools a lot; our school is the fifth he has attended since starting as a freshman two years ago.

Justin's personal trials and the fact that he has not stayed in one area for a long period of time has undoubtedly affected his grades, academic motivation, and sense of connection to a school setting. He currently holds eleven credits, which puts him on-track to graduate in the spring of 2016, provided he has the support he needs to make up a few missing credits and stay motivated to keep his grades at a passing level. From what I know about Justin, I believe that football is a key coping skill and motivator for him. I feel his opportunity to play would be crucial in his finding a sense of social and emotional connection at a new school and, importantly, a source of motivation and drive for him to succeed academically and stay on-track to graduate next year. Furthermore, participation in athletics can provide a much-needed outlet for the stress and anger that students with backgrounds such as Justin's experience on a frequent basis.

If you have any questions regarding Justin Shelby, please do not hesitate to contact me at 541-449-2225. Thank you for your consideration of a hardship for this young man.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Wright", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kirsten Wright
School Counselor