

Mr. Pagano,

Good morning, I am writing to you today in regards to our daughter, Hanna Maiorano, and the requested hardship letter that is required for the OSAA exemption.

Hanna has always been an outstanding student and athlete participating not only in school based programs but also club programs such as her swimming. Throughout all of the rigorous scheduling she always maintained a high level of academic performance leading up to last year when she skipped the 8th grade to advance into 9th grade from Cascade Middle School to Summit High School. When this occurred we were excited to see her continue to excel, however we started to notice a deterioration in her behavior and levels of happiness.

We started to take Hanna to see a therapist as the situation continued to decline and we believed it was due to social anxiety, the huge change in skipping a grade and starting high school. Based on our interactions with the therapist we were advised that there may be depression issues, medications required and that taking her out of the current environment at the high school would be the best course of action. We then enrolled her in the home based online school through Summit. This course of action was not helping the overall situation and that is when we began to learn of Hanna's hearing difficulties.

We then found out that Hanna was suffering from Auditory fatigue due to a "cookie bite" hearing loss that is genetic in nature for her. We found out that she could not hear half of the alphabet and was working in her head so hard to just understand normal conversations not to mention the noise levels and stress of the high school environment. Dr. Li at Pacific NorthWest Audiology explained the severity of the diagnosis to us and that the signs and symptoms of auditory fatigue are very similar to depression. Many people, especially kids in this environment, withdraw from normal activities, are very anxious, and have fatigue. Despite her loss of hearing for all of these years she has managed to maintain a very high level of proficiency in all of her classes up until this year.

Once all of this occurred we then took her off of the medications and with the understanding of what was happening to her we began to notice a significant change in behaviour and a more positive attitude. Unfortunately by the time this was being sorted out the end of the school year was upon Hanna, she tried very hard to complete the courses that she had but there was not enough time for her to accomplish this thus ending up with the incompleteness of some of the courses.

Now that Hanna has done some research on her condition, understanding how that affects her and acquiring the appropriate hearing aids, she is back to performing at a high level of academia. She is happy and excited once again to be at school and participating in all of the activities that she loves. However when she learned of the restriction on sports and activities this devastated her. Hanna would very much like to participate in speech, high school swim team and possibly other activities which she feels she is prepared to do and continue to earn high marks in all of her classes.

I would ask that Hanna receive the exemption to participate as all of these factors were far beyond her to control. As parents we did what we felt was best at the time and have since

then continued to monitor and do what is best for our daughter in conjunction with educating her on how to manage her disabilities. Again, despite all that has happened, Hanna has persevered through this and is now enjoying being back in the classroom. We feel that she deserves a chance to prove that she is capable and that the issues from earlier this year will not occur again.

Please let us know if there is anything else that we need to do or that we need to know going forward.

Sincerely,

Erik & Carrie Maiorano

503-706-4575

503-706-2801