
Tom Welter

Executive Director
OSAA

Dear Mr. Welter,

My name is Deborah Hall and I am writing this in regards to my son, Blake Anderson. Blake is a bright, loving young man with a passion for sports. Due to some unfortunate family circumstances Blake lost his way academically during the latter part of last year and I wanted the opportunity to explain in hopes that he can continue to play basketball.

I would like to start by addressing the fact that Blake struggles with ADHD. He has been on medication since the 2nd grade and requires extra time and attention when it comes to school and homework. This is, unfortunately, something I was not able to give him the latter part of last school year. I have raised Blake solely with the help of my parents and last year both my father and I were struck with illness making it difficult to give Blake the support he needed. My father, Richard Blake, who is more a father figure to my son, was diagnosed with kidney cancer. I was diagnosed with a blood disorder where my blood cells would not mature leaving me with a constant lack of blood and iron. I had to endure constant transfusions and eventually surgery. It left me hardly able to get out of bed and having to continue to work, I wasn't the parent Blake needed. It was my father's condition that, in the end, caused Blake the most distress. My dad was sick for a 6 months, ultimately losing a kidney. Blake was afraid of losing the most important man in his life. I was not aware of how deeply this affected him until I spoke with Molly Healey, his counselor at Lakeridge. She informed me that Blake was regularly going to see her and opening up about the stress and worry he was dealing with.

Blake's grades this year are back up, reflecting the student he once was. He also took an English summer school course which he passed and is on track to have all the credits he needs to graduate.

I would ask that you please take all of this into consideration. Basketball, School and Family are the most important things to my son. Not being able to play High School sports would be devastating to him and he has been through so much already. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Deborah Hall