

TO: Skyline DAC
FROM: Jeff Davis, NDHS AD
SUBJECT: MORGAN GILMORE HARDSHIP

I write this memo in support of Morgan Gilmore gaining athletic eligibility to play basketball at NDHS. Since coming to Drain to live with her grandparents last summer, Morgan's grades have been solid and Morgan has shown interest in becoming involved in school activities by joining the basketball team.

Morgan would benefit greatly from being a part of the basketball squad. It would place her in a setting where she would be surrounded by positive peers and influences, which further benefit her goal of staying on track to graduate.

In the two weeks Morgan has been on the court, she has shown rapid improvement and has been supported by her coaches and teammates, which is something very new to her.

Her academic record at Cottage Grove speaks to the difficulties she had there during her freshman and sophomore years and the fact that she moved to Drain to live with her grandparents tells quite a bit about her life with mom.

Though Morgan had some academic success at CG during the 2014-15 academic year, her personal life became more chaotic as the school year wound down. Morgan's dad has not been a part of her life since she was very young. Morgan's mom has had a number of "roommates" over the years. When a new roomie arrived, Morgan's responsibilities always changed and increased. She would have to care for her younger sister while mom pursued other "activities" and "interests." Mom's most recent housemate prompted Morgan to spend the summer with her grandparents in Drain. Morgan enjoyed then the opportunity to be a 17-year-old kid and not having to serve as the mother for her sister and deal with the chaos that sometimes became overwhelming at home. Morgan decided that living with her grandparents offered her a great deal more stability and "a lot less tension."

In my opinion, Morgan's home situation was out of her control. The need for her mother to have someone live with them made life very unsettling to Morgan. In fact, there was no roommate in 2014-15 until late in the school year just before the decision was made to move to Drain. Perhaps that explains the improved academic performance.

Morgan is a nice girl and seems to be happy at NDHS. We hope to do all that we can to keep her excited about school and getting that diploma. Involvement in athletics would help her immensely.

CGHS AD Gary Roberts is new as Dave Presley has retired from the position. Gary did not seem to have knowledge of Morgan's issues at home.

