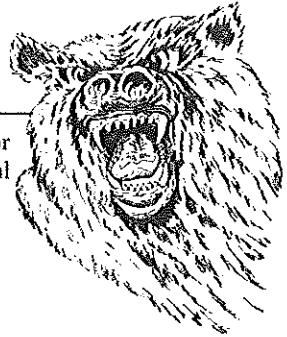


*Athletic Department*  
ASHLAND HIGH SCHOOL

KARL KEMPER, Athletic Director  
Assistant Principal



December 2, 2015

Dear Mr. Welter:

Jeffrey Simmons is currently ineligible due to cumulative credit deficiency. He has a total of 29 credits, below the minimum 35 required for OSAA eligibility at a 50 credit school, such as Ashland High School.

Jeffrey transferred to our school a year ago, after struggling academically at Churchill High School. He had been having difficulty making positive choices in his previous environment. The decision was made for him to move from his biological family in Eugene to another family in Ashland that were close friends.

The fresh start has made a tangible difference for him. Since he began attending AHS, he has been taking a full load of classes and passing them all, with mostly A's and B's. We have a plan in place for him to graduate with his cohort in June and he is on track to complete it.

Jeffrey would like to compete as a wrestler at AHS this winter and we ask that you grant this eligibility waiver as it will make a difference for him and he has earned the opportunity. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Karl Kemper

Jeffrey J. Simmons  
2014

To whom it may concern,

Hello, my name is Jeffrey Simmons. I am writing this letter in regards to some information I have learned about my ability to compete on the Ashland wrestling team. It is my understanding that I cannot compete due to a lack of school credits. There are a few reasons that I have that to explain why I do not have enough credits. As well as I hope to show you how much competing means to me as an athlete. I hope you will read and understand my situation and pardon me so that I can compete in the sport of wrestling.

The first thing I need to explain is why I do not have enough credits. This was because I was in an intensive rehabilitation program called Second Nature in Bend Oregon. I was in this program for 90 days or 3 months. This was during my first semester of my junior year in high school. I did not have the opportunity to retrieve credits while I was there. I graduated the program as of December 23 2014. The next thing I did was enroll in Ashland high school. I have been trying for the last to year to retrieve credits not only to be able to compete but also to graduate. My grades in my second semester of my junior year were three As, three Bs and one C. My grades as of now are, three As, three Bs and a C that is close to a B. Compare that to the Cs Ds and Fs I had before I went into Second Nature, and you can see the progress I have made academically. But even with my good grades, I am still credits short of even graduating. This is why I have created a graduation plan with my counselor. It involves School to work credits

because I have a job, type to learn and more in order for me to get the amount of credits I need to graduate on time. Academics are very important but so are sports as well.

Sports are a huge part of my life now. Up until the beginning of this year I really haven't had the experience of a sport. I have only ever done Crew or rowing. Our competitions were very few and far between, only 2 per the whole season. Crew is not a school sport either. It is a club sport. I have never had the opportunity to do a school sport. And I have wanted to do a school sport because of the fact that I can compete more than twice a season. Competing is very important to me as an athlete. It shows how much skill I have gained in practice. Competing also shows the application of practice in a real sports environment. Competing also shows me what losing is and why it is important. Losing builds character and motivates you for the next competition.

To recap, the reason I am behind in credits was because I went to a rehab program called Second Nature. It turned out to be the thing that's changed my life around. I am currently working hard to get more credits and I have a graduation plan in place. I am motivated to graduate and also to retrieve credits this is evidenced by my grades since I have gotten out of Second Nature. Also, sports are my life. I have never done a school sport, only a club sport and am very excited for the opportunity a school sport gives me. Finally, the idea of competing is one that I love and hope for. It is with great hope that you understand my situation

Thanks,

Jeffrey Simmons.

November 30, 2015

To Whom it May Concern:

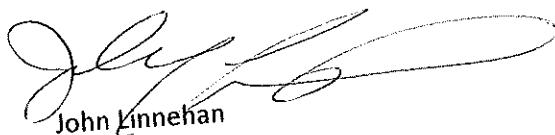
I am writing this letter in reference to Jeffrey Simmons wrestling for the Ashland High School. My wife and I assumed guardianship of Jeffrey in December 2014. Jeffrey came to us due to a long and close relationship with his parents Chris and Debbie Simmons. In September of 2014 Jeffrey had made some very poor choices (experimenting with marijuana, and skipping school) over a short period of time. His parents desired to get him some help and sent him to Second Nature a Therapeutic wilderness course located in Bend Oregon. Once he completed that course he came to live with us as a transitional living environment, due to my 15 experience working with troubled youth, and my wife's several years of experience being a softball coach.

Since arriving with us Jeff has maintained a solid work ethic in his academics having mostly A's and B's. Last school year Jeff participated in the Ashland Crew team where he competed twice in regatta's one in Eugene and another in Vancouver WA in which he did very well. At the end of last school year all of the adults in Jeffrey's life sat down and allowed Jeffrey to make a decision on where he would choose to finish his senior year. Jeff chose Ashland due to how well he has done both athletically and academically. He planned to compete in Crew again in the fall and spring, as well as wrestling in the winter (since he has never participated in a varsity sport.)

Jeffrey participated in crew this spring entering two regatta's in California and being recognized as a leader on the team. Jeff has recently joined the wrestling team and has expressed that he may not be able to compete in any wrestling meets due to being behind academically. I hope whomever reads this will allow Jeff to compete because it is a wonderful resource for him to continue his growth and propel him into his future.

Jeff currently has plans to graduate in June with his class, re-unite with his family in Eugene and attend Lane county community college to become a Paramedic. He has come a long way in a short period of time and I see good things for his future.

Thank You for your time in this matter,



John Linnehan