



December 4, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Elijah Smith recently enrolled at Hillsboro High School. He currently does not meet athletic eligibility standards as set by OSAA to participate in wrestling. He has been homeschooled up until November 30th of this year and has not yet had the opportunity to earn any high school credits. I am confident, as his counselor, that he will meet eligibility at the next grading period.

In conversations with him and his mother, they shared with me that Elijah is ready for more education beyond what homeschooling can offer. He is interested in attending college, and has high aspirations to possibly go to medical school. After Elijah recognized that a traditional school setting may offer him more opportunities in academics and athletics, he was eager to get started and took the initiative to enroll at Hillsboro High School. Elijah would like to experience all that high school athletics has to offer, as well as highlight his athletic ability in college applications and future opportunities.

We know that a strong connection to school and adult mentors has a profound impact on the academic success of a student. Getting involved in high school athletics will help Elijah build his skills and develop relationships with peers and coaches. Elijah's participation in wrestling this season could provide him this much-needed adult support, peer interaction and connection to school as he transitions from a homeschool environment to a public high school setting.

Please consider an academic hardship for Elijah as he bravely starts his academic and athletic journey at Hillsboro High School. I believe that Elijah will benefit greatly from the opportunity to wrestle with our Spartan athletes.

Sincerely,

Julie Buck
Counselor
Hillsboro High School

Engage and challenge all learners to ensure academic excellence