

November 5, 2015

To OSAA:

My daughter Brianna Jones is a Senior at Neah-Kah-Nie High School. I am writing this letter to explain why I believe she should be able to participate in Competitive Cheer at her new school.

Brianna Jones previously attended Dallas High School for the past three years. She began getting sick a lot and was having a lot of problems.

I took her to the doctor and the doctor said she had anxiety and depression. She told her doctor that much of her stress was related to school. The doctor suggested trying medication. We tried the medication and it helped a little. We continued to go to the doctor and they increased the medication. The anxiety was continuing at school and it was difficult to go. She felt lots of anxiety with the large class sizes and the people at her old school. Her self-esteem was destroyed. Going to school was really difficult because it brought up all the emotions about how she was being treated.

As a family, we didn't know what to do except maybe home school. I don't think homeschooling is the best choice for her on her Senior year. Her Grandma said she could live with her and we thought that would be wonderful since Brianna could help out her grandma who is 83 years old and needs help with some things. Her grandma has a lot of health issues and having Brianna around to help has been good. The school is smaller and Brianna feels relaxed and it has been a wonderful change. When she was feeling bullied at her old school she was having trouble concentrating in class.

Now she would like to try competitive cheer at her new school. She did not do cheer at her old school. We have seen a positive change in Brianna by going to the new school. She has thrived at her new school and wants to be part of a team and

build up her confidence. I believe the best part of sports is being part of a team and feeling like you belong.

Brianna did not go to Neah-Kah-Nie because she wanted to be in cheerleading. She would like to do cheerleading because she feels like she wants to be part of a team. Neah-Kah-Nie is not known for having a good cheer team so that is not the reason she is there. I believe this change has been very good for her and also for her Grandma.

I think sports can be an important and valuable experience. Please let her have the chance to compete with her fellow students. It is not about winning or losing, it about building character.

Sincerely,



Linda Jones