



Where Learning Comes First

Estacada High School

355 NE 6th Avenue • Estacada, Oregon 97023-9333 • 503-630-8515

Ryan Carpenter

Principal

Dan Draper

Assistant Principal

Trevor Syring

Athletic Director

To Whom it may concern,

Jan, 2016

I am writing a hardship request for Hayden Brooks. This young man has began High School at Estacada High School this year, being his junior year. He has moved several times in his high school years and has landed on solid ground.

Currently, he did not have enough credits entering his junior year to participate in sports. However, through his hard work and buckling down, he has earned 6 credits in a half of a year. He has a good rapport with our counselors and has made a doable plan to recover lost credits in order to graduate on time next year.

His attitude in school has been one of helping others out and being respectful to all. He has overcome many challenges in his own personal life that have made him the young man he is today and he will continue to work on staying positive looking forward.

Thank you for your consideration of this hardship for Hayden Brooks and please feel free to contact me with any further questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Trevor Syring

Estacada High School

Athletic Director

With the help and support of several staff members of Estacada High School I have made an Academic plan to get me back on the right path and not only to be able to recover my loss of credits but to graduate and continue on to college. I'm really looking forward to a new start at EHS and being able to finally take control over my life and start focusing on my future.

More than anything I just want to have an opportunity at a regular high school life like my friends and other kids my age. I want to become more involved in school activities I really want to be able to play high school sports and be a part of the team with my friends.

When I was told that my part in this process of applying for hardship was I had to write a letter about what I've been through to explain a reason for my failing, lack of credits and why I was no longer able to attend school last year I had no idea how difficult of a task this would be for me. Trying to explain to someone else in words of what I was going through and what was happening emotionally to me during this time is still very confusing and extremely painful to have revisit let alone put into words and think about it again when really I want to move forward and have an opportunity at a second chance. I pretty much have lost everything and everybody in my life in the last two years with the exception of my mom, little sisters and a few close friends. I'm really enjoying being at EHS. My teachers are great and I can honestly say for the first time in a long time I love going to school. I have made a lot of new friends. I'm just asking for the opportunity to prove what I'm capable of. With the supportive I now have there's no doubt I can do this.

Having the opportunity this year to attend EHS along with the commitment to myself and to work hard every day has given me a realistic second chance on being able to move forward and obtain my goals.

I really appreciate you taking the time to consider whether or not you feel I'm worthy enough to be given this one chance to show what I'm capable of.

Sincerely
Hayden

January 20, 2016

To: Mr. Syring

From: Hayden Brooks

Re: My Academic Plan

My name is Hayden and I would like to be able to play sports for Estacada High School, but I am behind in credits.

I came to Estacada High School with 3.5 credits. My 9th grade year I went to Wilsonville High School. I earned 2 credits my freshman year. That year was hard for me because my mom got a divorce and it was very, very impactful on me. My attendance suffered because I was physically and emotionally drained from the tough situations I was placed in because of the divorce.

My 10th grade year I went to Horizon Christian to try and get back on track. However, I only earned 1.5 credits here because I ended up being forced to withdraw from school. I was not at fault for the withdrawal, but I was not allowed to finish the classes I was enrolled in, nor was I given credit for what I had already completed. I was not allowed alternate options for education.

So, that brings me now to my junior year here at Estacada High School. I have done very well here so far and plan on continuing to do very well. I have earned so far 5 credits in one semester. This is more than just the 3.5 that a person can earn in a regular semester. I am showing that I am here to learn and get back on track.

I have worked with my counselor and we have a game plan in place for me to be on track at the beginning of my senior year so that I don't have to even do a hardship next year. Here is the plan that we've put together.

I have 6 face-to-face classes, which will help me earn 3.0 credits.

I have 2 online classes currently, and I'm 78% done with one and 17% done with the other.

When I'm done with those two classes, I plan on finishing another two classes before the end of the semester. That will give me a total of five credits for second semester.

All of that totaled together will give me 13.5 credits by the end of the school year.

Then, during the summer I plan on earning another 3.5 credits in summer school, either at Estacada High School, or through another summer school place. This will place my total by the beginning of my senior year at 17 credits, which is what I believe I need to have to be eligible without a hardship according to OSAA rules.

I know this is ambitious, but I believe I can do it, especially if I'm doing what I love, and that is playing ball.

Please grant me the hardship that I am requesting so that I can play sports at Estacada High School and continue to work toward graduation. I won't let anybody down.

Thanks for considering my hardship letter.

Sincerely,

Hayden Brooks

Hayden Brooks

I'm writing this letter in support of my son Hayden and your consideration of a hardship exception under 8.1.4.(a.). My hope with this letter is to give you some background about the unfortunate situation that was outside of his control but nonetheless led to him to no longer being in compliance with OSAA Rule 8.1.2 for sports and other extracurricular activities. Most importantly, Hayden is now in a healthy and safe place to focus on his commitment to academics and regain the lost credits of the last two years.

This was very hard to watch as a parent knowing how well Hayden enjoyed school. He began high school at Wilsonville and was making As and Bs before his homelife deteriorated. Two and a half years ago I went to a very turbulent divorce where Hayden was a victim of physical and mental abuse. This was an extremely difficult time for Hayden and his anxiety disorder became more pronounced and paralyzing through the divorce and subsequent abandonment by his father. Hayden was admitted to Providence and spent a week under suicide watch during this time.(upon request I will provide documentation of hospitalization)

In our search for healing and to get Hayden back in school I enrolled Hayden at Horizon Christian School where my close friend and coworker of mine husband is a teacher and coach.

The hardship exception factors recognize forced absences from illness or injury as cause for consideration of granting a waiver for eligibility. Regrettably, Hayden was a victim of discrimination while attending Horizon Christian. His fundamental civil rights were violated. He was not provided with the services or education other students attending HCS were offered. HCS withdrew Hayden from their school without giving him any alternative options to recover his credits he had earned or was working towards. I accepted an settlement offer from Horizon on this matter.

Hayden also loves sports, especially football, baseball and basketball. His love and passion for sports has made him who he is and has kept him grounded through such a horrible time in his life where many kids like him, would have found themselves in less positive situations. In spite of his disability, he has never given up on the idea of graduating from high school and continuing on to college.

We are fortunate to have found at this point in our lives Estacada High School, not only for the academics, but for the support and security my child so greatly needs. I know on paper, in black & white, the numbers, grades do not look good at all for my son. But if you look at all that he's accomplished in a short time at EHS it shows his commitment and determination to move forward. My appeal to OSAA is that that the circumstances surrounding Hayden were beyond his control and enforcing the rule creates an undue hardship on Hayden. I have taken the necessary steps to provide a stable home for Hayden, where along with the support of his sisters and Estacada High School, a favorable decision could contribute to the positive changes in his life and help create new opportunities for Hayden to once again succeed as a student athlete.

Sincerely
Marjie Hibbard



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Ryan Carpenter

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Athletic Director

In Praise of Hayden Brooks:

I write this letter to recommend that Hayden Brooks be allowed the opportunity to compete in high school sports for Estacada High School.

I am one of Hayden's high school counselors and I've seen great growth in him as a student and as an individual since he's come here to our high school.

Hayden began attending Estacada High School near the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year, and since his enrollment, he has earned 6 credits. This is nearly a full year's worth of credits in just half a year. He is motivated and excited to complete both his face-to-face classes and his additional credit recovery classes (online) in order to a) become eligible to play under a hardship this year and b) to be completely eligible to play next year when he is on track to graduate.

Hayden has a plan in place to complete additional credits (4-6) in the upcoming semester and then several more credits over the summer. All of these credits will place him near the 18 credit range, which is needed to be on track for graduation heading into his senior year. I believe Hayden can do this.

Hayden has overcome a lot of challenges and is ready to move forward in his academics and in his athletic eligibility. I believe that participating in sports will be a positive thing for Hayden and the motivation he needs to stay "on course" as he tackles an ambitious, rigorous plan to continue getting caught up in credits so he can graduate with his class in 2017.

I very much endorse Hayden's application for this appeal to be eligible for high school athletics. Please contact me for additional information or if you have any questions that I may be able to answer.

Sincerely,

Steven Christiansen

Steven Christiansen

Estacada High School

Counseling Department

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