

February 2, 2016

Dear Mr. Tom Welter,

I am writing to support your consideration of a hardship for Jordan Herrera. Jordan came to Elmira High School part way through last school year and is currently a junior. He previously attended Willamette High School.

Jordan has struggled mightily since coming to Elmira. At the start of this basketball season, Jordan was passing only one of his seven classes. He seemed like a young man that was going to get lost in the system and end up a dropout statistic. We made the decision to keep Jordan on our team with the hope that he could turn his life around. Since that time, his grandparents have become more involved in his life and, with this, the teaching staff, administration, basketball staff and players have encouraged, cajoled and tracked his academic progress. As a result of better organization and more focus and effort on Jordan's part he ended first semester passing 5 out of 7 classes. He also took an on-line math course from BYU to try to make up missing math credits.

In terms of what has resulted in Jordan's struggles, I don't think there is a very unique story here. Jordan has no father figure in his life, though his grandfather has been a positive influence more recently. He very likely has attention deficit issues which plague his academic success. By working on his self-discipline and focus as well as organization, and by building a plan for credit recovery, staff at Elmira has Jordan on a path of future success. He asked me yesterday in practice what it would take for him to be a leader in our program – a far cry from where he was in November! He recently told his grandfather, who relayed to me, that for the first time in a long time he was happy.

This hardship, if approved, would provide needed reward to Jordan for his hard work and would encourage his continued improvement as a student-athlete. I don't see a huge impact to our basketball team, though it would give us another back-up guard. Mainly, it would keep giving Jordan incentive to succeed in the classroom so that he could be able to play high school sports. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Nick D. Garman  
Boys Basketball Coach  
Elmira H.S.