

## To whomever is reading this letter:

"Softball, My Sport... My Game... My Life". My name is Kiley Holdiman, I am 16 years old and I am currently attending Warrenton High School. I live with my grandmother who took me in at age five and has been doing her best to raise me into a respectful young lady. With her guidance, I have already accomplished more than my parents. I'm heading down the right path in life and strive to display my talents and knowledge on a regular basis. I have participated in softball since first grade and developed an emotional attachment to it since the moment I started playing.

I played on the varsity team, where I started every game and played the entire time unless I was injured. As a freshman I was told that by my senior year of playing softball I would have the ability to do something great. This has kept me going. This sport is the one thing I have to always look forward to. I am a three sport athlete because I feel that playing sports teaches people important life lessons and skills. Out of all three sports, band, and choir, softball is the one thing I feel allows me to express myself. The love of the game, the determination, and the love for the team are all the things I think about when I hear the word "softball".

My whole life I have struggled with major medical issues. I've been fighting multiple cases of strep throat each year since about first grade. Through several late nights in the emergency room, missed weeks of school, and doctor visits we have found out that I have infected tonsils. Every virus I get infects my tonsils and causes them to swell. I deal with tonsillitis often, including several times this year.

My schedule at the beginning of the year was full of mandatory classes. If I missed a day of school I was automatically behind. When I experience tonsillitis, I am generally out of school for at least a week. When I came back I would work hard to try and complete all my work on time but was failing to do so. I was struggling in Geometry more than any other class and knew I had to change something. The school counselor and Geometry teacher thought that I would have better success taking the class next year when I was actually able to be there.

The second class I failed was English II. I was absent and missed class discussions and lessons. I fell behind very quickly and was not able to catch up. This frustrated me because reading and writing has always come so easy for me. I enjoy English class and tend to absorb the things I learn. I have never failed a class in the nine years I have been in school and don't plan to again.

I hate using excuses in life because I feel like mistakes should be owned up to. This time it is different, if I was perfectly healthy and capable of passing my classes, and failed I would not have wasted your time. I truly feel that after my surgery at the end of this month, my health will never be a problem or affect my schooling again. I feel that I have a lot to offer to my softball team and hope I can share the experience with them this year. I appreciate



you taking the time to read my story and hope you consider allowing me to participate in the sport I love. I won't let you down.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Kiley Holdiman

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kiley Holdiman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping underline.