

February 25, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is David Kovelda. I am writing to you because I would like to go out for track this season. If I may, I will tell you a little bit about my life. I am 18, and originally from Alaska. Since my dad has a job that requires him to move a lot, I have lived in six states. I am used to not having a home for very long. Vernonia is the only town I've lived in more than a year, and now I call it my hometown. People from Vernonia were so accepting of me. By the end of my sophomore year, my family had to move because of my father's job. Unfortunately without the support of my friends, I made poor choices. I spent my junior year in Norman, Oklahoma and didn't connect with the people there like I did in Vernonia. Because I knew people here, I decided to move back for my senior year. I moved back, and now am currently living with some friends and trying to get my life back on track. I work odd jobs most weekends so I can pay for my housing, food, and school supplies. It is hard but I have been doing better than I have any other year of high school ever.

My teachers and I have been staying in contact with one another to keep my grades up to passing. This year I was going to go out for football and wrestling, but couldn't because of past grades. I felt terrible, like a loser, because I was letting everyone down. I felt ashamed, and I didn't want my friends to know it was because of my grades. I worked harder than ever to get my grades up to compete in track.

I desperately want to compete in track this year. But as you probably know I am not eligible because of a loss of a few credits my sophomore and junior year. My freshman year I was in every season sport: Football, Wrestling and Track. I was a good kid and I did my homework and paid attention in class. In doing so, I was an average student at Vernonia High School. Sophomore year I started making some poor choices. I don't know why, but I was ignorant for doing so. I began to care less about sports, which turned into not caring for authority figures or school. I started to slack off quite a bit and lost some credits. Now I'm older and thinking more about my life and how I affected it with my ignorant behavior. I wish I could have been a three sport senior athlete. I am trying to make up for it by setting goals like passing all my classes, getting to school on time, playing sports to keep me on track, turning in all school work, and, yes, even staying out of trouble. All my teachers this year have been saying great things about my improved attendance and my improved attitude and responsibility in the classroom. I have a plan for me to get back on track to graduate. My counselor and I have been talking about online classes and bookwork for making up the credits I've lost. I know I have made poor choices in the past, but I would like the opportunity to prove that I have learned many lessons. I would like to be eligible for this track season and represent Vernonia in this sport my senior year.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

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