

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter for the behalf of Tyrus Reitz, a senior at Ridgeview High School in Redmond Oregon. When he began his senior year he did not have the credits required to play baseball his final year. He is now on track to graduate. During his junior year, he made some grave mistakes with the acquaintances he chose and completely lost his way, almost costing him his life. One of these poor acquaintances was a adult volunteer coach for the Ridgeview baseball team for the 2012/ 2013 season. At times over the past year, I felt hopeless for Tyrus, not knowing if he would come out of this in one piece. Thankfully he has, and he has embodied a deep determination to help other kids make better choices along the way. I am constantly amazed with his determination to fix his wrong choices and the respect he is getting from the "bad kids" who are seeking him for help. It has been a great joy to have other adults and his peers take notice of this change and ask what happened that made such a drastic difference. He is having a much greater impact on troubled youth today than he would have if he kept his nose clean the past year, and for that I am grateful and I wouldn't change a thing. He has made a career goal in a criminal justice area that I never would've imagined a year ago and we are excited to see where his future takes him.

Tyrus has played baseball since he was five years old and it has always been a driving force for him. He is very outgoing and energetic and has always come alive on the field. I ask that you consider to use him as a positive example and let him play ball this last year. I would love to see him make a difference in kids lives on the field like he is doing off the field. Tyrus is well known in our community and can have a impact on the kids that have given up on themselves. Those that have watched him go from something, to absolutely nothing and get back up and pull it together again, even if others have lost all hope in you. Tyrus is using the word Impossible as just an excuse to not try. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Janey Powell

Tyrus's Mom