

To whom it may concern,

My name is Wendy Burling. I am writing this letter on behalf of my daughter Marilla Burling, who is currently enrolled as a sophomore at Monroe High School in Monroe Oregon.

Marilla would very much enjoy participating on the Lady Dragon softball team, at Monroe High School. Unfortunately she is ineligible because of her academic situation last year while attending South Albany High School.

I really feel Marilla would benefit from being on the softball team, as it would help her build stronger bonds with the students, and give her extra motivation to keep her grades at or above a passing level.

Marilla's previous grades and attendance were poor. In middle school Marilla was targeted by some bullies and had a very hard time trying to maintain her grades and involvement in school activities. Unfortunately she struggled and was not adjusting to middle school as we had liked. We made a family decision to home school her in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, as we thought this would be the best decision for her. She did well with our homeschool curriculum. Marilla decided she would like to enroll at South Albany High School so she could be on the cheer team. Everything was going well, good grades, attendance was normal for about the first 3 months, when she started to again be bullied, which led her to withdraw and make friends. We took her out of mainstream high school and got her signed up with the online k12 education system. Because we had no previous experience with this programming it pretty much left her on her own to figure out the online schooling, it was not a success and she entered Monroe High School with academic deficits.

While being enrolled at Monroe, Marilla has maintained her grades, at the passing level (A's & B's in all classes- except one) She also has been a member of an ALL STAR cheer team located in Salem during this time. Marilla has two hour practices in Salem, two nights a week, and on Sundays, since school started. During this time she had been able to excel in her academics and attendance has been normal. Her grades have not diminished do to participating in ALL Star Cheer, and I feel confident they will not diminish while playing softball. Marilla is also using her elective class time for a credit recovery class, so she will be on track next year as a junior.

As her mother, I really believe that allowing Marilla to participate in softball will be more of an encouragement and positive aspect in her life, rather than a detriment.

Thank you for your time in reading this letter and considering letting Marilla be a part of the softball team at Monroe High School.

Sincerely, Wendy Burling