

To whom it may concern:

I am typing this letter to explain why I wasn't able to keep my GPA up in the 2014/15 school year to be eligible to perform this year in orchestra events and I hope you guys will understand why I wasn't able to and allow me the opportunity to perform this year.

In September of 2014 I started to have migraines that would be so painful to where I wasn't even able to get out of bed most days due to how bad the pain was. After consulting my neurologist he wanted to get a couple CT scans on my brain to see if there was anything abnormal. When we got the results back he didn't see anything. To help with the pain for about two weeks if it worked was a DHE treatment that is only administered through IV. After having the treatment done four times, it had only worked once. With the pain getting increasingly worse, missing a lot of partial and full days of school and during the times when I did have the pain I was not able to concentrate because even laying in bed not doing anything didn't help. During the month of September and October I had been in the emergency room four times, had 3 CT scans, had 3/4 DHE treatments and had a spinal tap done on me along with a lot of doctors appointments. Being the person I am, some of the days I had pain I still went to school. My mother has taught me a lot of lessons over my life and seeing her go through what she has, has made me stronger. One of the things she has told me to do is never give up and keep on going, the past is the past but the future is now. My mother is a two time cancer survivor and been diagnosed with the BRCA 2 gene.

The end of November through January 2015 was one of the hardest times of my life. After finally being able to work on my missing work to get my grades up, my grandfather all of a sudden fell ill. Trying to realize that this is the last week of his life I kept going on with my week going to school and going to visit him every night after school. My grandfather and I were very close. He has giving me the opportunity to get into the thing I enjoy supporting me fully, and getting me into the hobbies I enjoy to this day. December 6th, 2014 I woke up and walked down to the hospice house he was admitted at. I walk into the door to be greeted by the nurse and took me to where my family was sitting, he passed December 6th, 2014 at 1pm. The next week was tough for me but I knew he was in a better place. We had a service in Bend for him on December 15th and then drove up to Portland for his burial. That night my mom had received a call from the Bend Police Department regarding where I was, not giving us any reason on why they need me. We buried my grandfather on December 16th and came home on the 17th. My mom received an overwhelming amount of phone calls from the Bend-Lapine School District and the Bend Police Department on when we would be home with no regards to our current situation. When I arrived home, I had not been home even 10 minutes before Mountain View High School resource officer Ashley Voltz came over to question me. The person accusing me was one of my best friends who had helped me through many tough times in my life including this current time period. On that day a pending suspension was placed on me until further notice now allowing me to work on any past or current given work. Being gone a lot during the school year, this halted my efforts to get my grades up. After going through a Psychiatric evaluation through the Dechutes County Health Services on New Years Eve of 2014 they sent the results over to Mountain View for the initial review which was not looked at until January 5th, 2015 which then I was allowed back but still not able to work on any of my missing work from this time period with only 2 weeks left in the semester. They did end up reversing the suspension after the beginning of the second semester but by then the grade book have been finalized. I had met with Mountain View High School Administrator Sean Coorgian almost everyday for the rest of

the year because of this situation which caused me to miss more class time not shown on the attendance records given.

Having missed a lot of the first semester had put me behind academically and having taken an AP course along with an Honors class it was very hard for me to keep up the rest of the year and still had been suffering with the migraines. To this day I have worked with two neurologist and many other doctors to try and figure out what as causing them. We still have no diagnosis of what is causing them.

I have been playing the violin for 8 years now and it has become apart of my everyday life. I have been working hard in class and doing online classes to make up missing credits to graduate. I have also sent in a request for a 24 credit diploma to help ease the stress to help allow me to graduate on time.

Thank you for allowing me the chance to plead my case. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me anytime.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Riley A. King', with a stylized, cursive script.

Riley A. King

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