

To Whom It May Concern,

In January 2016, I joined the Portland Waldorf 10th Grade class after spending a year and a half at St. Mary's Academy. Before going to St. Mary's, I was at Portland Waldorf for 10 years. I grew up in the hallways filled with water-color paintings and the smell of baking bread. I learned everything from addition and how to knit, to the French Revolution and the quadratic formula in the bright classrooms in the lower school.

This school is my home. I have been to every Forest School, Harvest Festival, and Music Camp. I was in every class play and played many sports.

This community has helped take me through many hard times, even when I was not a student at the school. I consider each of my teachers and peers to be part of my family, and I am part of theirs. The Portland Waldorf School, and the surrounding community, has nurtured me since I was 5 years old. I am able to be the person I am today because of my amazing experiences in and out of the classroom at this wonderful school.

I decided to rejoin Portland Waldorf because I missed the community and place I called my family and home. For the couple months before I came back, I was hanging over to the school every weekend in to say hi to my friends and old teachers; I would sit and listen to stories about mechanics, biology and poetry units, and wish I could be in the classes myself.

I REALIZED THAT WHILE I WAS GETTING A GREAT EDUCATION AT ST. MARY'S, I WAS NOT GETTING AS ROUNDED OF AN EDUCATION THAT I WOULD BE AT PWHS. AT WALDORF, YOU DON'T JUST LEARN FACTS AND DATES, YOU LEARN HOW TO THINK FOR YOURSELF. I WANTED MY HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE TO PREPARE ME FOR LIFE, NOT JUST FOR HIGHER EDUCATION.

I WANTED TO MAKE MAIN LESSON BOOKS, SO I CAN SHOW PEOPLE WHAT I KNOW IN A CLEAR & BEAUTIFUL WAY. I WANTED TO BE IN A SMALL CLASS, WHERE I KNOW EVERYONE'S EXTENDED FAMILIES, NOT SOMEWHERE I DON'T EVEN KNOW EVERYONE'S NAME. I WANTED TO BE ABLE TO GO ON CLASS CAMPING TRIPS, LEARNING THROUGH HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE AND BONDING WITH MY FRIENDS. FOR ALL OF THESE REASONS, AND MORE, I'VE DECIDED TO REJOIN MY CLASS AT PORTLAND WALDORF SCHOOL.

I FIRST RAN TRACK AND FIELD IN EIGHTH GRADE, AT PORTLAND WALDORF SCHOOL. THE FIRST TIME I HEARD THE GUN GO OFF AND FELT THE ADRENALINE AS I RAN, I FELL IN LOVE WITH THE SPORT. LAST SPRING, I RAN FOR ST. MARY'S TEAM, WHERE I DEVELOPED MANY OF THE SKILLS I HAD LEARNED IN 8th GRADE. I WOULD LIKE TO BE ALLOWED TO RUN THIS SPRING FOR PORTLAND WALDORF TO CONTINUE GAINING EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE ABOUT TRACK AND FIELD. I WOULD ALSO LOVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE A PART OF SUCH A GREAT TEAM AND STRENGTHEN MY RELATIONSHIPS WITH MY PEERS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION,
HALEY FISH