

April 24, 2016

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Rick Greenwood. I am the band director at Sprague High School in Salem, Oregon. I am writing concerning my daughter, Oksana Greenwood, who is a 10th grade clarinet player in the Sprague High School Band. She recently transferred to Sprague from West Salem High School which is also located in Salem, Oregon. The reason she transferred was to alleviate the many family problems associated with juggling two high school band schedules in the same family. In addition, my daughter and I wanted to share the joy of making music together during her high school years. Our family is in the process of preparing our house to be placed on the housing market so that we can purchase a home in the Sprague area.

It has been brought to my attention that there is a clause in the OSAA Handbook (Article 8.6.1) that is summarized as follows: If a student was participating in an affiliated ensemble/team at one school and then transfers to another affiliated school, they are not eligible to participate in that affiliated ensemble/team for one year unless they move to that area.

I am writing to request that my daughter be granted immediate eligibility to participate as a full member of the Sprague High School Band for State Band Competition and all other band activities. I offer two pieces of evidence to support this request. The first is the rationale behind Fundamental Rule 8.6.1.

"Rationale: A transfer/residency requirement: assists in the prevention of students switching schools in conjunction with the change of season for athletic or activities purposes; impairs recruitment; and reduces the opportunity for undue influence to be exerted by persons seeking to benefit from a student athlete or activities participant's prowess."

My daughter's transfer presents no conflict to the above rationale. The reason for her transfer was not related to the "change of athletic season." It was not due to improper recruitment practices and was not an attempt on the part of her new band director (me) to "benefit from her prowess." As mentioned above, the reason for her transfer was to eliminate unnecessary stress created in our family and in my daughter herself related to maintaining two different rehearsal and performance schedules in the same household.

The answer to Question 7 under Article 8.6.1 states that if a student's parent/coach moves to a new school, the student is also allowed to move to the new school with his/her parent without this transfer affecting his/her eligibility standing. Although in this case, I have not moved to a new school, it follows that the concept of a child going to school with his/her parents has been upheld and supported through the answer to this question.

Since our family lived in the West Salem community when Oksana began high school, she enrolled in her area school, West Salem. It was not until we experienced first-hand the stress that juggling two very different band calendars created that we began to explore other options. We followed the district's procedure for requesting an in-district transfer, obtained permission from both Principals, and was granted this transfer beginning in February 2015. It is our intent to move our family to the Sprague community as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard A. Greenwood
Band Director
Sprague High School

