

Laddie M. Wirth, Jr
DOB 6-21-1998

The following information relates to Laddie Martin Wirth, Jr.'s hardship appeal presented to OSAA to allow Laddie to play sports for the academic year 2016-2017.

Laddie entered Westside Christian High School as a Freshman in the fall of 2012. In the winter term, he played JV2 basketball for Westside Christian High School. In the spring of 2013, Laddie played 1/2 a season of JV baseball for Wilson High School. At this point, I was becoming very ill and Laddie only passed one course by the end of the semester.

In the 2013-2014 academic year, Laddie played no sports. I had been diagnosed with a significant medical problem which greatly impacted our entire family. In December, due to academic and emotional issues surrounding my illness, Laddie's little sister was asked to leave her private middle school. Laddie was also not having any academic success due to the overwhelming emotional trauma my illness presented. Eventually, we withdrew Laddie from Westside Christian High School and brought him home to care for me and try to complete school on line through Connections Academy. However, with my illness being what it was and Laddie's dyslexia, a computer based learning system was a complete fail. During this academic year, Laddie received no credits for school nor did he play any sports.

In the academic year 2014-2015, Laddie started school at Wilson High School which is our community High School where we have lived. He played fall football for the first time in his life and Spring Baseball on the JV2 team. Never having played football before made this a whole new experience for him, which he enjoyed.

Laddie would like to play high school sports for the academic years 2015-2016 and for 2016-2017. Even with summer school, it will require a substantial effort from Laddie to graduate in the spring of 2017. Laddie has multiple learning challenges which make success in school difficult. Although he has a 504 plan to help with his ADHD, anxiety, executive level functioning weaknesses, and his expressive/receptive language disorder, his counselor and I have begun the process to have him evaluated for an IEP. Since this is the first time Laddie has attended public school, he has not had the tools in place in the form of an IEP to help him to be successful, although he received other considerations in his private middle school and at Westside Christian High School. His counselor believes this will be a critical step to helping Laddie achieve academic success and increase the possibilities of him graduating in the spring of 2017. Even though participation in sports requires time outside of the classroom, Laddie's grades actually improve while he is participating in sports. A portion of this can be attributed to the OSAA standards which help Laddie to better organize his free time towards academics. However, we have also noticed that when Laddie is involved on a sports team, he has other players and coaches counting on him to remain eligible to participate. This extra level of accountability has been instrumental in helping Laddie to organize and increase his desire to remain eligible to play.

A brief synopsis of Laddie's high school academic years and sports played looks like this:

2012-2013 Attended Westside Christian High School. Played JV2 Basketball and 1/2 a year of JV Baseball for Wilson High School

2013-2014 Attended Westside Christian High School and Connections Academy.

Laddie received no school credits and played no sports

2014-2015 Attended Wilson HS. Laddie played JV football and JV baseball
2015-2016 Will attend Wilson High School
2016-2017 Will attend Wilson High School

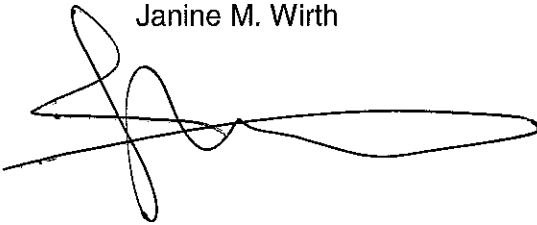
We ask you to please consider carefully our request to enable Laddie to play four years of high school sports which will span over 5 academic years. To punish him for an illness to his mother in which he had to spend time caring for her and was not be able to focus on school nor play any sports at that time seems extremely harsh. Some items also to note, I have been left compromised in my health, I have a disabled parking pass, a service dog who still receives training and an application pending with social security for a disability from which I will not recover.

Our family humbly asks for your considerations and approval for Laddie to play two more years of high school sports, which will coincide with his academic Junior and Senior years of high school.

Another item for your consideration is since Laddie's birthday is June 21, 1998, he will still graduate at 18 years of age even with taking an extra year to complete high school. He will still be the age of the other students competing in high school athletics and graduating that year. And often times there are students competing in sports who have already turned 19 years old. This hardship request is not an attempt to give Laddie an advantage. It is merely in hopes that you would grant him four years of high school sports, spread over 5 years, while he finishes high school.

I have included medical support data to verify my disability and Laddie's emotional/learning challenges.

Most sincerely,
Janine M. Wirth

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Janine M. Wirth', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.