

April 29, 2016

Dear Mr. Welter,

My name is Laddie M. Wirth, Jr. and I am a junior at Wilson High School in Portland. I am writing to explain why it will take me five years to finish high school and to humbly request that I be allowed to play high school sports for four years but not in consecutive order. My fourth year of OSAA sports will actually be my fifth year of high school, however I wasn't able to play any sports in the academic year 2013-2014, which I will explain.

During most of 2013, my mom was becoming increasingly ill. Finally, after multiple trips to the emergency room, they discovered what was causing the problem and she had surgery on Monday November 11, 2013. Although they removed the huge tumors, she still had ongoing cancer challenges. Also during this time, my younger sister, who has Autism, was asked to leave 6th grade from the school she was attending at the holiday break, making her last day of school there December 19, 2013. My family was given no prior warning that the school was going to request that she leave. Since she suffers from extreme anxiety which makes attending school very difficult for her, my parents thought bringing her home to try an online school might be a good solution. So she started Connections Academy in January 2014. Unfortunately, my mom's illness had an almost unbearable emotional impact on our entire family, which was reflected in my grades. So on March 7, 2014, I was withdrawn from Westside Christian School and brought home to complete the school year through Connections Academy, serve as my Autistic sister's academic tutor, and care for my sick mom. My dad was trying to work and support our family. However, since I have dyslexia and Connections Academy wanted me to go back and begin the semester from the beginning, an online program which is reading intensive didn't turn out to be a good choice for me and I didn't have any success. Because of these issues I wasn't able to earn any credits or play any sports for the 2013-14 school year.

Social Security Disability declared my mom's date of disability to be December 17, 2013 which is a little more than a month after her huge surgery and two days before my sister's last day of school after being excused from her school and coming home to try the online school. Hopefully this helps support the severity of the situation I am describing while also trying to somewhat protect my family's privacy.

My family decided in the fall of 2014 that I would begin the school year at Wilson High School, the community high school where we live. I tried for the first time in my life to play football. I had never even played flag football or any Pop Warner football before. As it turned out, I really liked football, I learned a lot and I liked playing on the JV team. Then in the spring of 2015, I played baseball.

In the fall of 2015, I played football again and my parents enrolled my sister into Jackson Middle School where she received an IEP. My mom has also been receiving additional medical support and with these additional supports in place for other members of my family, I was able to achieve a 3.571 GPA for Fall Semester 2015. It was a lot of hard work for me but I am

beginning to learn how to succeed in a school setting with my academic disabilities. And now in the spring of 2016, I am playing baseball again and having a great experience.

I would really like to be able to play sports next year while I finish high school. I am learning how to organize, work with my teachers and work with my 504 Plan, which is helping my grades improve. Playing sports actually helps holds me accountable and helps me organize academically. I really like being part of a team, seeing my teammates in the hall or the classroom, and the pride of wearing my Wilson jersey on game days. Since I missed out on so much school and school activities when my mom was so sick, I truly feel like a junior and not a senior. I also feel as though I need another year in high school to help me learn how to work with my academic disabilities (I have more than just dyslexia), my 504 plan, and I would really like to be able to play the sports I wasn't able to play in the fall of 2013 and the spring of 2014 while I finish high school. And since I will still be 18 years old at graduation in June of 2017, I will be the same age as the students with whom I am currently a junior in school.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Laddie M. Wirth, Jr.