



April 7, 2016

Mr. Tom Welter
Executive Director, OSAA
25200 SW Parkway, Suite 1
Wilsonville, OR 97070

Dear Mr. Welter:

Please accept this letter in regard to OSAA rule 8.2 for your consideration of petition for a 5th year of eligibility for our student, Liam McDonald, as described in 8.2.4.

My review of Liam's record's (pertinent exhibits enclosed) provide the following factual information:

1. Liam date of birth is March 30, 1998
2. Liam first registered and began 9th grade in August 2012 at Houston High School in Alaska.

His attendance records show that he was absent all or significant portions of each day on 24 school days beginning Aug. 16 and through Oct. 2. He withdrew on Oct. 2, 2012 and received no credit for any classes.

3. Liam moved with his mother, Adina Graham, to Medford, Oregon and registered and began attending Crater High School on October 10, 2012.
4. Liam's CHS transcript indicates that he failed five classes and received credit only for P.E and an Academic Lab course. Further review indicates that he did not take any classes during the second semester.

Anecdotal information regarding above: His pattern of poor school attendance and poor academic achievement can be traced back to fourth grade. Liam had a chaotic upbringing until the end of his freshman year at Crater HS. He and his mother moved many times, his father was incarcerated, his mother had severe substance abuse issues and Liam found himself homeless and without proper adult guidance, supervision and normal measures of safety and security. Clearly, Liam was powerless over his circumstances and his parents had neither the skills nor resources to take care of themselves let alone Liam.

Blanchet Catholic School

4373 Market St. NE Salem, OR 97301

(503) 391-2639 FAX (503) 399-1259 info@blanchetcatholicschool.com

www.blanchetcatholicschool.com



During the summer of 2013 Liam's grandparents, Dr. James McDonald and Mrs. Melinda McDonald acquired custody of Liam and brought him to their home in Salem. They applied for admission to Blanchet Catholic School and Liam was accepted for the fall term 2013 as a 9th grader for a fresh start and an opportunity for success with a vastly improved support system. It was noted at that time that Liam would be ineligible to participate in OSAA sanctioned athletics and activities during his senior year. I also informed Liam and his grandparents that from time to time certain exceptions might be made should a student's academic performance and personal circumstances warrant. I am pleased to say that Liam is such a student and I am happy to submit his case for your careful review.

Liam's performance since his enrollment at Blanchet Catholic has been diligent and outstanding, as evidenced by his current transcript and progress grades. Liam is an average athlete at best and has participated on our track, football and swimming teams. He has worked very hard and accomplished what he was challenged and supported to do. His turn around is nothing short of amazing and miraculous; we are very proud of him. I am honored to advocate for him.

Please afford him your most kind consideration.

Yours most cordially,

Tony Guevara
President