

April 9, 2021

Dear Browning Public School Board Members;

Hello, my name is Tia Marie SpottedEagle. This is my request to graduate early from Browning High School and to waive the need to go for a semester my senior year. I have been going to Browning High school since my freshman year when I transferred from Cut Bank schools. My main goal right now is to graduate and get a diploma.

When it comes to school, I work hard to always make sure I have good grades and get all my work done. I would like to graduate early as a Junior and start going to college at the Blackfeet Community College and get my generals out of the way. I really don't have any close relationships with friends. I mainly go to school to get my work done and go home. I work for my goal to graduate and learn new things every day.

While I was young, my parents always told me to graduate from high school, go to college and find a job because out there in life these days you need to have your diploma. While I started to plan to graduate early last year in 2020, I told my Grandparents and parents what I planned on doing and they were proud to hear that I was planning on graduating and putting my education first.

Later, while I was talking to my teacher, Mrs. Kitty SkunkCap, we looked into how I could graduate early. She set up a meeting and we planned on how I could go about graduating early and we went through the process of everything that I needed to do. I was told at that point that the earliest I could graduate was next year of the 1st semester. Lately, we reviewed my grad plan and can see that all of my credit requirements will be met by the end of this semester and I will be turning 18 on May 24, 2021, and I would like to graduate this year as I see no need to have to take any more courses next year.

During this Pandemic, in the year of 2020, my Dad passed away. He is really my step-dad but he raised me since I was young. My dad was ready to see me graduate. He was proud of me and I was glad to see him be proud of me. This loss has made things more difficult at home and I also would like to help my mother with bills and with my siblings.

The main reason I want to graduate from high school early is because I want to start college and start working and become a Veterinarian. I hope to even start my own vet or shop here on the Blackfeet Reservation. Not only that, my grandparents are getting old and can't lift heavy things. I also want to be available to help them too on their ranch.

While I was growing up, I lived on a ranch out in Badger Creek, South of Browning, MT on route 1. I always helped my grandpa out on the ranch, moved cattle and worked hard and helped feed the animals. I want to have a good career and start learning more about animals and be able to take care of them but also be able to help my grandparents financially by knowing how to help their animals and them not have to worry about paying a lot of money for that help.

Once I complete high school, my first plan is to get enrolled in college and start working for my grandparents because the help is needed. I know becoming a veterinarian is going to be hard work and I have a lot to learn. Although this is true though, I know that it is something I love doing; working and being around animals and also knowing how to fence and pasture cattle.

My grandparents are getting to the age where things are starting to change. I hope to become a Vet, but if it becomes too difficult of a dream, then I am willing to at least pursue a CNA certification and still be able to assist my grandparents in maintaining their ranch and keep it going.

Graduating high school is my plan for right now because I have good grades and I have only this last semester of classes I need in order to graduate. Beyond that, my plan for right now is to graduate and go to college and be able to help my mother move forward without my dad and to also be able to assist my grandparents not only with their ranch but with their lives.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tia Marie SpottedEagle