

November 8, 2022

Wendy Mitchell-Payne
CHS English/Leadership
715 East Wayne Street
Celina, Ohio 45822

Dr. Ken Schmiesing
Superintendent
Celina City Schools
585 East Livingston
Celina, Ohio 45822

Dear Dr. Schmiesing:

It is with great excitement that I request a Deduct-Day for Thursday, December 8th, 2022. My second child and high school junior, Jarrett, just went through the college recruiting process this past summer and early fall. He went on several official college visits. My husband and I split duty to be with him on these out-of-state visits, and I used two personal days. He did find his future "home" and made his verbal commitment to continue his academic and athletic endeavors

in Tuscaloosa for the University of Alabama. As excited as we are for him, (and as talented as he is), swimming scholarships are hard to come by. A fully funded program can only offer the equivalent of 9.9 scholarships. Most schools have 40 swimmers on a roster, so they divide up the 9.9 to spread it around. In addition, thanks to Covid - NCAA athletes received a 5th year of eligibility, which coincides with his first year of college. Although he was offered a small scholarship, and we are hoping his 4.3 gpa along with a good ACT/SAT score can get him a little merit money, we are still a LONG way from covering the tuition (\$200K+). We already have one in college now, so anything we can do we are trying. Fortunately, there are additional athletic funds available for him if he can, as a high school junior or senior, swim a time (or two or three) that would score points at the SEC Championships. Alabama is willing to pay \$12,000 if he can secure one time, \$18,000 for two, and \$24,000 (\$6,000 x 4 years). Unfortunately, these are specific national level meets that take place during the school year because they are in short-course-yards. His first opportunity is Dec 8-10 at the Winter Junior National Championship in Greensboro, NC.

I used my 3rd personal day last Friday watching Jarrett swim in Indianapolis in his first "International" competition, the FINA WORLD CUP, where he was able to swim in short-course-meters against the best swimmers (Olympians) from all over the world. I did carry one over from last year, in which I have already submitted it to the Kiosk and secured a sub for Friday, December 9th. Hopefully you will grant the December 8th deduct day so he can attend the meet and go after some much needed college scholarship money.

Thank you for your support and consideration. I can be contacted at 937-658-4388 or Wendy.mitchell-payne@celinaschools.org with any additional questions.

Sincerely,



Wendy Mitchell-Payne
English/Leadership Teacher
Celina High School