**E-mail correspondence**

Mrs. Oakes,

I just aced a test on anaerobic/aerobic reactions, ATP, and the Electron Transport Chain in PE class without studying, so thank you again for drilling all of that into my brain. Also, I just talked to Mr. Pace, Mrs. Knick, and Mrs. Gravett. They are here at VMI for a STEM conference that we hosted. I was hoping you were a part of that group, but alas you were not.

Hi Mrs. Oakes. This is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. You know, one of your favorite student/slackers ever. =) I just wanted to send an e-mail to update you on my first year away at school. Overall my year was excellent. I finished with a 3.83 g.p.a. The only two B's were from Organic Chemistry first semester and Calculus second semester. It seems like I could never get that elusive 4.0. I want to thank you for all that you did for me. You laid it out there for me that if I did not study, then college would not be kind to me. I have actually found a good balance with studying and extracurriculars. Also, I applied for and received an internship opportunity at Michigan State University. I will be doing cancer research with Dr. Vilma Yuzbasiyan-Gurkan. I leave Friday! I miss the Governor's School family. I hope all is well and that you are still "keeping it real" with the students!

As you know, our son (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) had an accident today while dissecting a sheep heart in Anatomy and Physiology class. As he was cutting into the heart, he was holding the heart with his left hand and cutting with his right hand. The scalpel slipped and he cut the top of his thumb across the knuckle. This resulted in a cut that went to the bone and required 5 stitches. I am very confident this was an accident and all safety measures were in place. The reason I am sending this email is to commend Kelly Oakes and the entire staff at PGSMST for the care Christopher received during this incident. The fact that other students stepped in to help Ms. Oakes speaks highly of her classroom management. I was promptly notified in a calm manner and when I asked Ms. Oakes if she could carry Christopher to Prime Care so I could meet them there she showed her concern for her students by not hesitating to do so. Ms. Oakes’ actions and suggestions allowed Christopher to get prompt care and having her there with us was very beneficial in giving information to the personnel at Prime Care. He was able to return to PGSMST before the end of his next class and missed no time at his base school (Chatham HS).

The way this situation was handled does not surprise me due to our experience with PGSMST as well as PCS. The teachers at PGSMST and Mr. Pace regularly go out of their way to assist their students.

Thank you, Ms. Oakes, for taking care of our son and showing that you love your students as they are your own children.

Mr. Waters:

Mr. Pace made me aware of the accident yesterday morning. In turn, I informed Mr. Foster so that he could communicate with the appropriate staff at CHS and make any necessary arrangements in response to the incident. I am relieved to know that Chris is doing well. We will continue to pray for his complete and speedy recovery. Thanks for sharing the kind words of support and encouragement for Ms. Oakes, Mr. Pace and the entire staff at PGSMST. Indeed, PCS, CHS and the PGSMST are fortunate to have quality individuals working diligently to meet the needs of our students. If I can be of service, please feel free to contact me at your convenience. Also, please give my kindest regards to Chris and have a great weekend!

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