

June 9, 2006

Dear Dr. Gaske, Ms. Georing, Mr. Cooper & Staff:

This is a happy time yet a very sad time. The past six years have passed quickly almost too quickly. It has been an honor and privilege to be a part of the High Road family. That's the way we see our relationship with the staff at High Road, as a family. There are too many words to describe the staff but some would be: mentors, leaders, professionals that are caring, nurturing, knowledgeable, compassionate, patient, and most of all dedicated. Through the dedication and commitment of you and your staff Freddie was able to reach a goal that seemed almost out of reach when he first walked into High Road.

At the meeting with the placement team for Montgomery County we were asked "What do you want for Freddie", we had only one answer. "We wanted Freddie to have a chance to learn so he would be able to graduate with a diploma not just a certificate of attendance." We honestly feel had Freddie continued on the path he was taking in public school he would not have had the success he has had at High Road. We can only wonder because he has accomplished what we wanted with the help from all of you.

Freddie came to High Road a frustrated, scared and confused child that lacked the confidence in himself to know he could succeed. He is now leaving High Road as a young man with confidence that he "CAN DO" anything with patience and perseverance. Freddie learned this among many others important life lessons from the staff, such as: being a true friend and taking responsibility for choice you make and the consequences that come with those choices. He's learned to control his anger (with Mr. Mac's anger management lessons) to some degree. It wasn't all easy, we still fought over doing homework but the more he learned he found the easier the work became. Knowing now that when he is given a job to do it's up to him to be sure it is done and done completely. He has much more growing and maturing to do but that's on him now. Hopefully, he will use many of the life lessons he has learned to help him along the way and make the right choices.

To all those that worked with Freddie, you have helped to make our son what

he is today and will be in the future. We are all richer for knowing and working with you. We believe people come into our lives for a reason and we have been blessed that Freddie had all of you come into his life. He will admit he has not been to model student or the easiest to teach but teach you did. The progress he has made over the last six years was more that we ever dreamed possible. Yes, he was a major player, but without the support, encouragement, and determination from the entire staff this would not have been possible.

We don't know what the future holds for Freddie but because of all of you he can be successful in what ever he choose to do. Hopefully one day he will look back and see how fortunate he was to have had the opportunity to attend High Road.

We thank you from the bottom of hearts for all that you have done for Freddie. Our only hope is that many more students will have the same opportunities as he has had.

With lasting gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terri & Fred Hale". The ink is dark and the writing is fluid.

Terri and Fred Hale