

Attn: Nkongolo, LaToya Delegate

This year was our first year homeschooling our 13-year-old daughter. She's currently in the 8th grade for homeschool. Extracurricular activities were one of the hardest things for me to find for her. She did track and field for six and seventh grade at Stemmers Middle School in Essex MD. The one track and field team that I found was in West Baltimore. I was unable to sign her up. (No call backs after several messages) Reisterstown Regional Park and Sportsplex.

We ended up going with Team Maryland Blaze Track Club. They meet once a week at White Marsh Recreation. The practices were convenient for us to attend. However, the meets were 2 hours away round trip (Thurmont, Maryland). My husband and I made the drive for each meet. We would love to see Baltimore County include homeschooling children in extracurricular activities. As homeschooling parents, we're willing to pay for the fees and uniforms out of pocket in order for her to participate.

She had to forfeit an opportunity to be the media specialist for BCJC. (I've attached the letter below). Being a part of the extracurricular activity with school would give her the opportunity to see friends one to two times per week. Participating in extracurricular activities builds teamwork, leadership and other skills needed for the future.

I read all of the instructions on how to submit homeschooling curriculum for portfolio review approval. I submitted all assignments with test and examples (over 150 pages for 10 8th grade classes). Stephen Kimos (home school reviewer) was extremely helpful. He assisted me with what to submit to the state of Maryland.

The Baltimore County homeschooling website is not as clear-cut as his (Mr. Kimos) instructions were. Homeschool parents are told which subjects to choose (grade level classes) without any gifted or accelerated class suggestions. BCPS does not leave room for error meaning if a parent picks a curriculum that the school board doesn't align with courses/classes may be rejected.

That's frustrating and leaves a gray area for parents. It would also be helpful to have access to tutoring. We've had to seek extra help with geometry for this year. Some homeschooling students have a difficult time with certain topics and would benefit from having access to after school tutors as BCPS student do. (We'd be willing to pay for this service if offered to homeschooling students)

Having homeschool children participate in school activities would allow them to be seen by college recruiters (debate teams, sports, etc). Division one recruiters (to my knowledge) may miss out on incredibly talented homeschooled children. BCPS-CCBC is holding a college fair on March 11. We'd love to be able to participate in this activity to get early access to dual degree programs for local high schools and CCBC prior to the school year starting.

Thank you,

Shantia Frazier

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