



The Park School of Baltimore

College Counseling Office — Confidential Release Form

Dear Park Family,

This form addresses circumstances that may have affected your academic record, such as a prolonged illness or learning differences. Absences from school or different styles of learning, understandably, often have an impact on a student's level of achievement.

We have found that it can be helpful in our advocacy efforts if we have your permission to discuss these circumstances in our recommendation letters and in one-on-one conversations with admissions representatives. This makes it possible for the admissions staff to review and understand your grades in the proper context, rather than being left to draw their own conclusions.

We have also found it helpful for students to write a short piece explaining these circumstances, to be included with their applications. It is often very compelling to read directly from applicants about challenges they have faced and how they have overcome obstacles. **Sometimes, students want to address these matters in their application essays, but we feel that a separate student explanation (usually included in the "Additional Information" section of the application) relays the information without using the unique opportunity provided by the essay to give the reader an inside look at the applicant's personality, views, or character.**

Because information of this nature is private, both student and parent signatures are required if you wish to allow your college counselor to discuss this information in the recommendation that they write. **Please note: Without this signed release, we will not discuss information, such as learning differences, in our recommendation letters.**

We ask that you complete the information at the bottom of this page and return it to the college counseling office. Should you have any questions or concerns about this request, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Matt Hannibal and Liz Hirsch

Permission granted to disclose.

Permission NOT granted to disclose.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____