

August 25, 2004

Dear Senior Year Teachers,

This summer, on July 7th, I had spinal fusion surgery to correct scoliosis. Metal rods were attached to my T3 to T10 vertebrae using small hooks. Pieces were removed from four of my ribs and then used as a bone graft to fuse those vertebrae into one long bone that will not continue to curve over time. The fusion process will take about a year to complete.

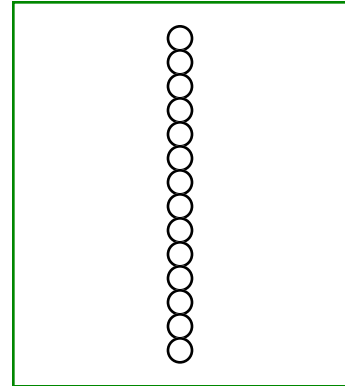
For the most part, this should not affect my daily activities or my class participation. Nevertheless, I do have some restrictions about which you should know.

- ◇ At least for now, I have a lifting/carrying limit of five pounds and cannot carry a backpack. I have a tote bag, and in it a 1/2 inch binder with one folder per class. I must ask that you please keep your required notes, handouts, and so on to what can fit in this folder, and that you let me work and take notes on loose-leaf paper rather than in a notebook.
- ◇ Again due to the five pound limit, I won't be able to take down or put up my own chair.
- ◇ Until October 7, I will be wearing a hard, thin plastic brace under my clothes. It should not interfere with anything, but does make bathroom trips take a little longer.

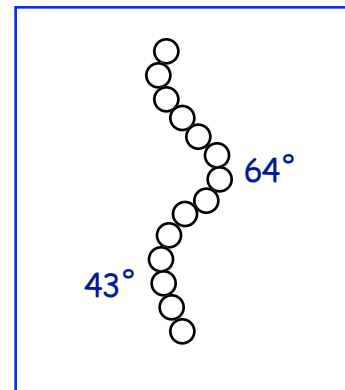
Attached you will find copies of two letters/forms from my surgeon regarding textbooks and medication respectively. A letter regarding passing period is on the way. I doubt that any of this will inhibit my full participation in class, and it is my sincere hope that it does not cause any inconvenience for you. If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns, my contact information is also attached and I am more than happy to be flexible.

I am looking forward to getting to know you and anticipate a wonderful year! Thank you for your cooperation and understanding!

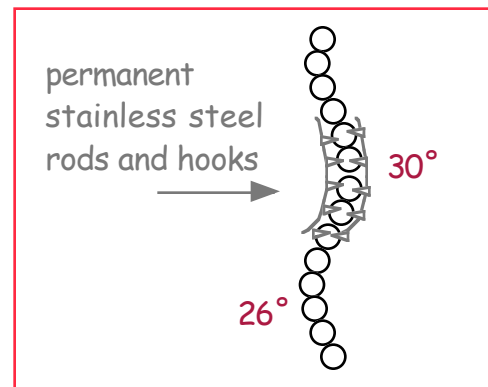
Yours truly,



This is a healthy person's spine.



This was my spine before surgery.



This is my spine now.