

Dr. Wendy Birhanzel, Superintendent

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to share my sincere and enthusiastic support for the Colorado Springs Philharmonic and the incredible work they do to enrich the lives of our students, teachers, and families here in **Harrison School District 2**. Their commitment to making the arts accessible and meaningful is not only admirable—it's transformative.

In Harrison School District 2, many of our students face challenges that go beyond the classroom. That's why opportunities like those provided by the Philharmonic are so vital. Their performances, outreach programs, and educational partnerships open doors to new experiences—sparking curiosity, creativity, and confidence in our students. These moments matter. They help young people find their voice, discover talents they didn't know they had, and build the kind of resilience that extends into every aspect of their lives.

The benefits of these arts experiences are backed by research—better attendance, improved academic performance, stronger social-emotional skills—but more importantly, we see the impact firsthand in our schools. Students come alive through music. They connect. They dream bigger.

Our teachers feel it too. In a district like ours, where every educator wears many hats, meaningful professional development can be hard to come by—especially for our art and music educators. The Philharmonic provides not just inspiration, but real resources and collaborative opportunities that elevate teaching practices and morale. That kind of support helps us retain passionate, skilled teachers who are essential to our district's success.

At the district level, this partnership strengthens our mission to serve the whole child and the whole family. The Philharmonic's community-based approach aligns beautifully with Harrison's core values. Their presence in our schools builds cultural bridges, brings families into shared experiences, and reinforces a sense of community pride. In short, they help us build a district where every student feels seen, heard, and supported.

In Harrison, we believe in the power of the arts to transform—not just test scores, but lives. That's why I strongly encourage continued and expanded support for the Colorado Springs Philharmonic. Their work is essential to creating a future where all students, regardless of zip code, have the opportunity to thrive.

Thank you for your time, and for believing in the power of music and partnership.

Sincerely,



Dr. Wendy Birhanzel
Superintendent

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