

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Debra P. Pace

May 30, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my privilege to write this letter in support of Central Florida Vocal Arts. This past school year, our high school choral students received an opera outreach experience through Central Florida Vocal Arts and Opera Orlando. Students and teachers in each of our high school choral programs, participated in a workshop where students learned the history of opera and the guest artists from Central Florida Vocal Arts worked with students on several songs from the operetta Noche de Zarzuela giving them first-hand experience in the art form. Students received tickets to see the operetta, Noche de Zarzuela, which took place in March at the Osceola County School for the Arts. In addition, a group of students from each of our high school choral program, were also invited to share the stage during the operetta. This was an extremely valuable experience for the students offering a diverse cultural experience and career connections in the arts.

The project was a transformational experience for our students since for many of them, this was an introduction to the Spanish art form from their heritage. The timing was also poignant with the recent devastation in Puerto Rico from Hurricane Maria, the program and the operetta were just what Osceola needed at a time when we were welcoming so many students to our school district that were affected by the hurricanes. It offered all an opportunity to celebrate the Spanish heritage and this incredible art form of opera.

The Osceola School District, constantly seeks to provide the highest quality of arts education to our students; programs such as this one support these talented students allow them to step closer to becoming well rounded artists and citizens. With 89.83% of our students being on free- and reduced- lunch, opportunities provided by organizations like Central Florida Vocal Arts are critical to the success of our students. These opportunities have empowered our students to believe in themselves and create pathways into the creative sector. Research confirms that education in art disciplines is a vital component of student success: stimulating and developing the imagination and critical thinking, refining cognitive and creative skills, promoting self-confidence, and better preparing them with problem solving skills. These qualities are essential for a student to perform in the competitive world of today; and we, in the Osceola County School District, are thankful for the resources that Central Florida Vocal Arts has provided for our students.

The School District of Osceola County is incredibly grateful for the generosity and effort extended by Central Florida Vocal Arts and looks forward our continued partnership in providing arts opportunities for the students of Osceola County.

Sincerely,

Pamela Haas
Fine and Performing Arts Resource Specialist