



# GREENSBURG SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT

1 Academy Hill Place □ Greensburg, Pennsylvania 15601-1567

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*Coordinator of  
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October 13, 2020

To whom it may concern:

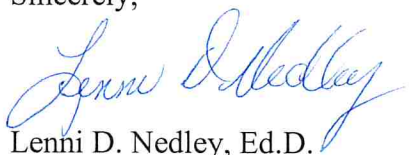
I am pleased to provide this letter to support the dedication and leadership of Carmelle Nickens in creating a creative and talented Rural Arts Collaborative project that is invaluable to the children and schools to which they have collaborated.

As a public-school administrator, the focus on educating children to take a state assessment has placed the arts and humanities in the background. The Rural Arts Collaborative bridges the disconnect between academic standards and the arts. The project allows teachers to collaborate with professional artists and musicians to allow the children to see the connection between the academics and the arts. The children apply their academic skills to the artistic pillars of analyzing, improvising, creating, writing, performing, communicating, and collaborating with each other and the resident artists and musicians. These invaluable experiences would not be possible without the support of this project and the voice of Carmelle Nickens.

This past school year, the Greensburg Salem School District has been grateful to be the first Westmoreland County schools to collaborate with the Rural Arts Collaborative. The school principals saw first-hand students participating in high-level career related conversations with the resident artist and students enjoying the process of improv while playing alongside the resident musician. These opportunities would not have occurred without the Rural Arts Collaborative project.

The Greensburg Salem School District looks forward to continuing their partnership with the Rural Arts Collaborative and Carmelle Nickens.

Sincerely,



Lenni D. Nedley, Ed.D.

**Administrative Offices**

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[www.GreensburgSalem.org](http://www.GreensburgSalem.org)