



Washington School District

Together We Make a Difference!

311 Allison Avenue, Washington, PA 15301 724-223-5112-Phone 724-223-5050-Fax

Website - www.prexie.org Twitter - [@WashSupt](https://twitter.com/WashSupt)

Dr. James R. Konrad
Superintendent
konradj@prexie.us
724-223-5015

September 22, 2020

Mrs. Lisa Coffield
Executive Assistant to the
Superintendent
lcoffield@prexie.us
724-223-5112

Rural Arts Collaborative
C/O Carmelle Nickens
monjimbeau@gmail.com

To Whom It May Concern:

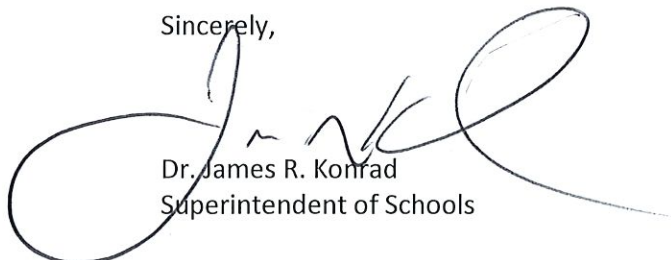
I am please to provide this letter of support for the Rural Arts Collaborative. In 2012-2013, Carmelle Nickens laid the foundation for the Rural Arts Collaborative (RAC) Arts Education Project. As a former educator with an extensive background in non-profit work with after-school art programs, it was clear to her that there was a need to focus on developing a project that would work alongside existing arts curriculum in the classroom.

RAC launched its first teaching artist residency in the Washington School District, as a pilot project, and to date the RAC project has served 11 of the 25 Intermediate Unit 1 school districts in Fayette and Washington counties.

Each residency is a full academic year placement, working with a lead art teacher or a team of lead teachers, which prefer a cross-curricular approach. The RAC teaching artists utilize a project based learning approach, requiring a project outcome in the form of a public art piece that can be installed, or a performance or video to create some lasting form of art that will be part of the students, school and community in some way. Washington School District junior high school students have their RAC projects displayed in several areas and buildings around the City of Washington.

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

Sincerely,



Dr. James R. Konrad
Superintendent of Schools