



PERPICH
TEACHING IN AND
THROUGH THE ARTS

April 5, 2021

Dear Education Finance and Policy Committee,

As Principal and Assistant Principal of the Perpich Arts High School, we write to you today to highlight the value of maintaining Minnesota's arts high school. Minnesota is unique in supporting a statewide arts high school. As a residential arts high school for juniors and seniors, we serve young artists from every corner of our state. Currently we have students from 33 counties in Minnesota. 30% of those students are from outside the 7-county metro area and, thanks to our ability to manage the appropriations we receive from the state, we can offer tuition-free housing to students who live more than 20 miles from our school. So, we equitably offer a free, public educational opportunity to Minnesota students, no matter where they live, who desire to develop, enhance, and integrate their artistic and academic abilities to their highest potential. Our unique school program includes both a complete arts-infused academic program where our students meet the same graduation requirements as any Minnesota public high school and artistic programming in six areas: Visual Arts, Media Arts, Literary Arts, Dance, Music, and Theater. This artistic program is nothing like the elective or extra-curricular programs students might find in their home high school. It is an immersion that develops both the technical artistic skills AND the creative thinking skills of our students. Over the past several years this has led to graduation rates ranging from 94-100%, ACT scores that are above the Minnesota average, 75% of AP scores at 3 or higher, and scholarship awards for our graduates ranging from \$3-6 million dollars each year.

While there are many reasons you can have confidence that this unique program is filling a need in our state, allow us to illustrate one that stands out in our challenging times. In a pandemic year, when public school systems across the state have struggled to maintain their enrollment, we have seen an increase in applications that has us forecasting another double-digit percentage increase in enrollment for the 21-22 school year. And, once again, this interest is from across the state, with 40% of our applicants coming from outside the 7-county metro area. In closing, know that your support will positively impact a wide range of Minnesota students seeking an education in and through the arts for a long time to come.

Sincerely,

Conn McCartan
Principal

Rebecca Bullen
Assistant Principal

Perpich Arts High School
Perpich Arts Outreach
Perpich Arts Library

6125 Olson Memorial Highway
Golden Valley, Minnesota 55422
perpich.mn.gov

Telephone: 763-279-4200
Toll Free: 800-657-3515
TTY/TDD (MN RELAY SERVICE): 711

Perpich Center for Arts Education is an equal opportunity employer.