



800 South Taft Avenue • Loveland, CO 80537 • Office (970) 613-5057 • Fax (970) 613-5089

September 10, 2013

Dear Gifted and Talented Enrichment Program Coordinators and Coaches,

The purpose of this letter is to express our deepest thanks and appreciation for all of your work this school year on behalf of our district's students and to reiterate recent changes.

We're proud to work in a district where enrichment programs that support and enhance the curriculum are valued and supported. These programs could not exist without the time, dedication, and expertise all of you bring day in and day out. On a regular basis parents, students, and families share how much the enrichment programs mean to them, how much their students have learned, how their confidence has grown, how their interest in a new topic has developed, and how their teamwork and social skills have been stretched in new ways. The quality of the role you play in the lives of our students is not only shaping their academic year, it is shaping their lives. You are truly making a difference. Thank you!

Many of you have been engaged in conversation with one another and with us about the relationship of the district to these enrichment programs. The feedback you have provided has been very helpful and has provided the basis for regular meetings on this subject.

One of the biggest pieces with which we've wrestled has been whether enrichment programs should be district sponsored or non-district sponsored. While some of our surrounding districts are moving away from district sponsorship of enrichment programs, we understand that the consequence of doing so might impact access to these learning opportunities for many families. By no means do we want to close this door on a child. At the same time, we also understand that this district umbrella brings policies, procedures, and facility issues that can be restrictive to the programs, and compliance can be challenging. Many of you have found ways to make it work and are thriving under district sponsorship. Others of you have found insurmountable obstacles and are feeling confined by the district umbrella.

The needs of every program and of every individual team are different, so—for the 2013-2014 school year—we will be asking each team to consider the value and limits of this district sponsorship and to declare for themselves whether their team will be district sponsored or not for the entire 2013-2014 school year. Over the coming months, we encourage you to talk with the families at your school, other coaches, and staff supervisors to determine what is best for your particular team.

An explanation of the difference between district sponsored and non-district sponsored teams, the parameters around district sponsorship, and the pros and cons of the two options, as submitted to our office from various programs, are included here for your consideration. If you have further questions related to this, please contact our office.

Once again, thank you for the enrichment opportunities you have provided this school year. We hope to have the opportunity to serve you next year.

Sincerely,

Michelle Stout  
Gifted and Talented  
Enrichment Coordinator

Carol Swalley  
Gifted and Talented  
Coordinator

Barb Swanson  
Benefits and Risk  
Manager

Deb Huffsmith  
Athletic and Activities  
Coordinator