

THE Calhoun SCHOOL

Founded 1896

May 8th, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in to express my full support of the developing partnership between The Calhoun School and Badlands National Park. The Calhoun School is a progressive, independent, college preparatory school for kindergarten through grade twelve located in the heart of Manhattan's West Side. The school has a strong commitment to community outreach, service-learning, and experiential education. Continuing to foster and formalized the partnership between the two educational organizations will benefit our students and programs for years to come.

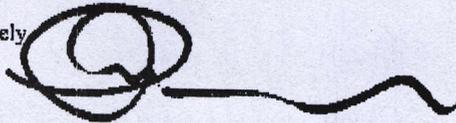
A high school teacher completed an artist in residency program with Badlands several years ago. Through that contact, the teacher worked cooperatively with park staff, volunteers, and other teachers to create a camp experience at Badlands for about fifteen students in 2012. Not only our students, but also students from rural South Dakota and the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation were involved. Teachers and students were able to engage in deep learning about Earth science, biology, art, and history. Perhaps even more importantly, they were able to form relationships with teachers and students from a very different place. The impact of this experience on our students and staff has been great.

We are committed to building on the successes of this program and partnership. A few ideas are to expand the camp to include more SD students. We would also like to investigate the opportunities for bringing SD student and teachers to New York City to complete the circle of a true cultural exchange program. There is interest among our students in expanded work experiences and internships with the park service.

Interested members of the school staff, led by Mr. Gary Joseph Cohen, will continue to plan and develop the camp program with the park staff and other education staff from South Dakota. During the school year, we will prepare students for the experience, take them to the park, and then offer several projects and reflection opportunities for them to continue learning about their experience.

I look forward to being a part of the continued success of this beneficial program.

Sincerely



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In-Kind Contributions

\$25,000 Staff Time: 3 Teacher, 1000 hours in 2012 & 2013 for a total of 960 donated staff hours at an average of \$25 per hour; including benefits and school salary costs

\$1,500 Air travel costs to Badlands camp for 3 teachers

\$1,300 Ground travel (van rentals) for duration of camp

\$1,500 Cost of food for one week camp for teacher and student participants

\$1,600 Photography equipment, art supplies, notebooks for 25 participants (NYC & SD students)

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