



Role Models and Message

As you know, students' views of themselves and the world around them are significantly shaped by their role models. More than any other role models, today's youth are influenced by the entertainers and personalities they hear on their ipods & the radio and see on TV & in the movies. I know I don't need to tell you that not all of these role models inspire positive values.

With our presentation, your students will get a chance to meet a very special breed of entertainers. HOJA performers are very positive, enthusiastic, and committed to achieving our personal goals and ambitions. We care about people. We respect and support each other and everyone we meet. We work hard and have achieved great success. We take the time to meet and talk to students one on one because we know how much it means to them. We love what we do and are thankful for the opportunities we get to enjoy every day.

Not only do we demonstrate to your students what can be achieved if you pursue your dreams by example. Throughout the show and especially in our message following the performance, we encourage and inspire your students to seek out and discover their own talents, to pursue their interests and passions, and to work hard at achieving their own goals and dreams. Each singer tells a personal story relating the three important things we did while we were growing up that helped us make our dream come true – getting involved in a variety of positive activities to try them out, practicing and working hard, and believing in ourselves when facing obstacles such as peer pressure and bullying. We assure your students that they are just as talented and capable as we are, and that they can each become whatever they want to be if they follow the same steps.

We find that, because the students have a lot of fun during our show and we relate well to them, they drop their 'listening defenses' and really do pay attention, absorbing our message and internalizing some concrete skills for shaping their lives. We know that, by inviting us to perform at your school, you are giving us the opportunity to be a significant influence in your students' lives, and we take a lot of pride in living up to that responsibility.

"Their stage presence and interaction with the audience was very entertaining As well, their motivational message regarding the setting of goals and daring to be different was an important message to be heard in any small town."

- Allan MacMillan, SRC Advisor, St. Jerome's Senior High, Vermilion, AB

"HOJA also presents a strong personal message unique to each member. They spoke of their individual challenges on their path to a music career from peer pressure to time management. The solutions to these problems came from hard work, dedication, practice, perseverance, and self-esteem. Although the message was serious and potentially uninteresting to youth, HOJA succeeded in keeping it lighthearted and memorable. HOJA has continued to impress and be a positive influence for the student body and we look forward to their next appearance."

- Daniel Russell, SRC, Lumsden High School, Lumsden, SK

"Our goal is always to invite those groups and speakers who are positive role models for our students and who will have an equally positive impact on our school climate. You achieved all of this. By taking the time to talk with our students after the performance you demonstrated that talented busy performers such as yourselves are also real people."

- David Thorburn, Principal, Leader Composite, Leader, SK

"I would like to thank you for your session in my classroom speaking informally with the students. I believe it is invaluable for young people to have meaningful contact with professional artists as it provides inspiration and encouragement to those hoping to pursue a career in the arts. Each of you were so friendly and kind to our students and we thank you."

- Sherron Burns, Drama Teacher, North Battleford Comp, North Battleford, SK