



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 when 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.

"To conclude their performance, each performer shared a personal story about their own lives. Each story outlined an important aspect of resilience and character development, underscoring the value of 'getting involved, taking a risk, practicing to improve a skill, and believing in you.' This 'message' was delivered with a casual, friendly tone and had no undertone of moralizing or being patronizing (a challenging balance to strike with adolescent audiences).

- Leta Youck-McGowan, Principal, Ian Bazalgette Jr High, Calgary, AB

"We also enjoyed the upbeat, positive message brought along with the music. Students were able to see passionate musicians doing music for a living. We were very interested in the dedication, commitment and time that rehearsals and performances require. HOJA was able to relate these qualities of excellence to the students in whatever they do. The members of HOJA presented themselves as excellent role models to the students. We appreciated HOJA's professionalism, geniality, and showmanship. Without hesitation, I strongly recommend HOJA for school performances!"

- Mark Matejka, Music Instructor, Minitonas Middle School, Minitonas, MB

"HOJA is a wonderful role model and a positive representation of today's youth."

- Margaret Belcourt, Hythe Regional Jr High, Hythe, AB

"The message of sticking with your goals, and following your dreams and talents was clear through the group's actions and words."

- Ronda Alberts, Ardrossan Jr/Sr High, Ardrossan, AB

"Thanks HOJA for a wonderfully entertaining, funny, enjoyable show and for being such good role models with positive messages for our youth."

- Bonita Slobodian, Fox Run Middle School, Sylvan Lake, AB