



**Laredo Middle School**

5000 South Laredo Street  
Aurora, Colorado 80015

720.886.5200  
720.886.5298 FAX

lms@mail.ccsd.k12.co.us

January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

After being in education for 8 years, Youth Frontiers is by far the most meaningful activity I have ever experienced with kids. The Courage Retreat, which my school has done for two years with our 7<sup>th</sup> graders, is always the favorite day of the year for both students and staff. After hearing about Youth Frontiers through a flyer in the mail, I decided to take a risk and book the Courage Retreats for all of our 7<sup>th</sup> graders. After getting some criticism from some staff for taking their kids away from "learning" for a whole day, I was a little nervous. However, within the first five minutes of the retreat staff being in the school, I knew I had made the right decision.

The Courage Retreat was full of activities and energy from the moment it began. I was amazed at how quickly the students "bought into" the program and how much they seemed to be enjoying themselves. However, my true amazement came when the retreat staff began sharing their stories of courage from when they were in middle school and how much all of our students were listening, paying attention and clearly "hearing" the real message.

At the end of the day, during the Pebble in the Pond activity, students were asked to share, in front of the entire group, their own acts of courage. This activity moved several of the students to tears, and as for the adults, there was not a dry eye in the gym. This event, in combination with the rest of the day, was so moving, it will be a day that is never forgotten by both students and staff.

Since the retreat, our students continue to use the weekly lessons provided by Youth Frontiers to talk about courage and how being courageous can impact their lives and the lives of those around them. You can really see a shift in the culture of our school from before and after the retreat.

I will never be able to thank the Youth Frontiers staff enough for helping our kids to be courageous. The one thing I know for sure is that I will never have to worry again about the staff seeing the Courage Retreat as a day of "no learning", instead, we all agree, it is the one day of the year where the **MOST** important learning occurs.

Thanks again!!!

Jessica Price-Turner  
Dean of Students  
Laredo Middle School  
Aurora Colorado