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Dear KDM PTA and Mrs. Lewis,

My name is Jennifer Foose and I am a music and theatre teacher at Cedar Grove High School. My daughter Eliza is a second grader at KDM. I am very passionate about the impact music and theatre can have on young minds. I am writing to inform you about a special assembly opportunity I hope you can be a part of.

The Cedar Grove Education Association in the Cedar Grove School District is providing funding for the Free to Be...You and Me project through an NJEA PRIDE community organizing grant. The project is a touring musical troupe of Cedar Grove High School music and theatre students performing the full length musical Free to Be...You and Me. Included with this project are optional lesson plans for all subject areas and grade levels.

In this time of encouraging students to stop bullying and spend less time on social media; Free to Be...You and Me provides an interactive and educational platform that initiates discussions, self-reflection and tolerance through musical performance. The musical production alone conveys many messages but if some of the music is listened to ahead of time or stories are read and discussed from the show or the Free to Be Lessons are touched upon, the outreach to our students could be extremely significant. I would love to communicate with the teachers about how to incorporate a few of the lesson plan ideas if they choose to do so.

The running time of the musical is 48 minutes so an hour assembly time slot would be ideal. As a teacher, I know our schedules are demanding especially during times of testing. To avoid the PARCC testing, I would like to propose the date of April 13, 2018 for Katherine D. Malone Elementary School. I hope we can work together on this project and I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

Jennifer Foose

