



Building Bright Futures

Oberon Middle School
Mrs. Tara Peña, Principal
7300 Quail Street
Arvada, CO 80005
phone: 303-982-2020
fax: 303-982-2021
web site: oberonvikings.org

Dear Denis and Lisa,

We would like to thank you both for outstanding work toward making our visit with "Marco Polo" a true success! Lisa, you were so easy to work with and you made the process simple with your knowledge professionalism. On such short notice, you went out of your way to make it happen for more than 500 kids who will never forget their time with Denis. We are sure many teachers think booking a guest like Denis would be difficult or out of reach for most schools. Nothing could be further from the truth. This was the highlight of the year for staff and students, worth at least twice the cost. We look forward to seeing Denis at our school again next year and every year.

Our staff was blown away! They were not only moved by Denis and his ability to tell a story, but by the student's engagement and the level of questions being asked. Our students were challenged and able to rise to the occasion thanks to Denis.

We all agree that Denis has a special gift. Not only are his stories compelling, but connected to a larger narrative of interdisciplinary learning and a global perspective. His discussion on being resilient, never giving up, finding a way forward in the most difficult of circumstances was a message that impacted everyone in the room.

Here is a comment from another teacher -

"Today's assembly was beyond incredible. Not only was the speaker fantastic, but in my 3 years here I have never seen an assembly where students were as engaged and well behaved as they were today. He made history come to life today for these students and the content was so meaningful on so many different levels. Of course the main focus was history, but I found that many of the things he talked about could be related to other subject areas. I believe that this is something students will never forget, and 40 years from now they will still think of how cool it was to learn about Marco Polo."

- Ms. B.

Spanish Teacher

Here are a few comments from students -

"Most of the assemblies I've been to in the past years have never sparked my interest but yours did. It was less of an assembly in my eyes and more of a... conversation. Like you were just telling us about part of your life..."

- Arianna M.

Our Mission: To provide a quality education that prepares all children for a successful future.



Building Bright Futures

Oberon Middle School
Mrs. Tara Peña, Principal
7300 Quail Street
Arvada, CO 80005
phone: 303-982-2020
fax: 303-982-2021
web site: oberonvikings.org

"I was really impressed with your art skills. The drawings in your journal were breathtaking. They really captured the moment. I have a journal of my own, but I don't write in it much. But you said that writing every day will help you in college. So I now write in my journal whenever I get a chance, even if it's just a sentence."

- Mia H.

"You taught me that endurance is the key to success. When you were captured in Afghanistan, you did not give up, but kept fighting. When you could not get a vehicle to cross the border, you did not give up and turn back, and you got to your vehicle! Thank you for teaching me the lesson of endurance..."

- Isabella A.

We look forward to next year and to expanding on the work we began this year. We would strongly recommend Denis Belliveau and the Explorer in Residence program to any school looking for an outstanding and one of a kind opportunity that engages students and curriculum equally. Denis is truly unforgettable and a master at his craft!

Sincerest Regards,

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is "Matt Arleth" and the second is "Ken Detweiler".

Matt Arleth and Ken Detweiler

7th Grade World Studies Teachers

Oberon Middle School