



## MARVIN PICOLLO SCHOOL

---

LISA SINGER, Principal  
900 Foothill Road  
Reno, NV 89511

Phone (775) 851-5650

Fax (775) 851-5652

April 4, 2001

Mr. Perry DiLoreto  
500 Damonte Ranch Parkway  
Reno, Nevada 89511

Dear Mr. DiLoreto,

Thank you for the interest in the Marvin Picollo Therapeutic Horseback Riding Program. Using horses as a form of therapy has been around for many years. It allows almost all children or adults a fun way to interact with animals while becoming physically stronger. The heat from the horse helps to relax the muscles of the rider, who is riding bareback or on a bareback pad. This allow the horse's body heat to transfer to the rider, then the leg muscles relax and so does the trunk. The heat and the gait of the horse stimulate the same muscles that people use to walk. In addition to the riding aspect there is an entire separate part of the program and that is the "barn" program. This includes the feeding and grooming of the horses, steer and sheep and barn pasture maintenance.

Our first goal is maintaining the care of the animals. We must feed, shoe and provide for the veterinary needs of six horses, one sheep and a steer. The average cost of these items is \$600.00 per month. We hold fund-raisers and seek donations from the community to accomplish this.

Our second goal is to recruit and maintain volunteers on a daily basis. In order to safely run the program it takes three volunteers and our classified assistant. We advertise in the paper for volunteers and depend on our staff's family members to volunteer. Our long term goal in this area would be to have six volunteers per session so we could use two horses at a time.

Our third goal is to continue to pursue our NARHA accreditation. We currently are members and have been busy raising money to fulfill the arena requirements that will allow us to proceed. NARHA dues are expensive and they are paid on an annual basis. In addition we will be required to attend a training class, held outside of Reno, to continue our pursuit of accreditation. We will have to provide the association with video tapes of our program and will have to undergo an on site inspection. If we are successful we will be the only therapeutic Horseback Riding Program in Northern Nevada. The district has committed some funding to the NARHA training but not full funding.

Our fourth goal is our biggest goal. We have dreamed about having a covered arena that would allow us to ride no matter what the Nevada weather brings us. Our school operates on a year round cycle so we are subject to heat and cold and many of our students are too fragile to handle extremes in weather.

Our fifth goal is to expand the program beyond Picollo School. The district has been very supportive of this and the process has already begun. School buses provide other students in the district from Reno High School, Reed High School and from Blue Kangaroo. We hope to expand staffing to the program and provide opportunity to participate in the program to other special needs students in the district.

Our sixth goal is to continue to participate in the community education program by providing students an opportunity to take a class in horsemanship at Picollo. This has allowed many students and parents to see the horses and gain an awareness to the program.

We would appreciate any support or participation in our program. We are a public school and all donations are tax deductible.

Again, thank you for your interest in our program. If we can answer any questions please don't hesitate to call Lisa Singer, Principal, or Ana Warner at 851-5650. We'll look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Lisa Singer  
Principal



Darlene Schottle  
Area Superintendent, Area 4