



SADDLE RIVER DAY SCHOOL

147 Chestnut Ridge Road • Saddle River, NJ 07458 • 201-327-4050 • www.saddleriverday.org

October 9, 2020

To Whom it May Concern,

I am the Director of Technology at the Saddle River Day School in Saddle River, New Jersey. Our students have been involved with The MY HERO Project since 2009, learning about heroes around the world who are working towards the SDGs, through the MY HERO's multimedia library of films, stories and art. MY HERO has curated content associated with each of the SDGs, allowing our students the opportunity to explore the goals that most interest them and learn about what is being done globally to address these issues. These curated resources have been invaluable during this time of distance learning. Teachers have been able to share specific links to MY HERO resources for students to use, and suggested activities were able to be completed independently and through online collaboration with classmates. Students became aware of how issues affect communities differently around the world while learning about heroes making a positive difference. Students in our lower and middle school have been inspired to submit stories and short films to MY HERO for publication on their website.

In addition, our students have taken part in the MY HERO iEARN (International Education and Resource Network) Learning Circles, which has connected students from our school in New Jersey to other classes around the world, such as Sierra Leone, Taiwan, Russia, Moldova, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya and more. Students collaborated online and learned more about other countries' cultures. They were able to share information about heroes working towards the SDGs, most recently: Goal #6. Clean Water and Sanitation; Goal #4. Quality Education; and Goal #5. Gender Equality. After collaborating with the school in Sierra Leone, our students learned that many children, particularly girls, were not able to go to school due to the cost of tuition. After learning this, our students were motivated to create a fundraiser activity to raise money at our school's Homecoming. The money raised was enough to send over 30 children to school for a year. MY HERO has inspired our students to make a positive difference in the world. A UN SDG Action Award would allow MY HERO to continue to strengthen their program and expand the scope of their impact on students, faculty and families in global communities.

Laura Hollis
Director of Technology
Saddle River Day School