



**Superintendent**  
**D. Mark Byrd, Ed. S.**

**Assistant Superintendent**  
**Westley Wood, Ed. D.**

**Chief Academic Officer**  
**Donna Cotton, Ed. D.**

December 6, 2019

**RE: Foothills Heritage Farm's Old Place Project**

To Whom It May Concern:

Please consider this letter an endorsement of the Foothills Heritage Farm's Old Place Project and its goal to improve middle school grade level academic achievement and social emotional learning. Based on the information shared with us, we see the value in working with the Foothills Heritage Farm as they continue to develop and refine their curriculum, teacher development, program evaluation, public relations and field trip logistics. We understand that it is the intention of Foothills Heritage Farms to initiate this project at Central Wilkes Middle Schools located in Moravian Falls, NC. Where feasible, we will assist in the promotion of this opportunity as an opportunity to enhance the curriculum of our middle grade students.

In reviewing the proposal provided to us, we particularly appreciate the meshing of history to character development and the lessons to learn from the collaborative mindset of our ancestors. The opportunities provided by the Foothills' Heritage Farms will allow our students to internalize how mutual dependency and the sharing of resources, talents and skills can result in positive outcomes for the community.

It is our understanding that the project will be accessible to thousands of students in a nine-county area and we welcome these visitors to take advantage of the real life lessons in character development, appreciation for history, vocational awareness and community service offered by Foothills Heritage Farms. As mentioned above, these types of opportunities can enhance our middle school curriculum outside of a regular classroom setting. We anticipate this project to be highly successful and we are excited about this new opportunity in our county.

Please consider Wilkes County Schools a strong supporter of the Old Place Project.

Sincerely,

D. Mark Byrd, Ed. S  
Superintendent