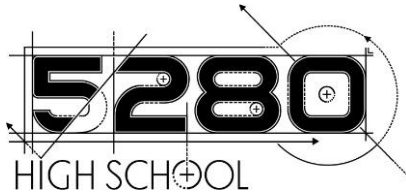


For Immediate Release

5280 High School & OCBN Join Forces to Create a Documentary Series

September 25, 2023, Denver, Colorado: A creative collaboration between 5280 High School and Our Community Broadcasting Network (OCBN) has been established to produce a documentary film series featuring the school's unique approach to educating and supporting their students in recovery. Students will be directly involved in the production of the series.



The Denver charter school serves students who have struggled with substance abuse, self-harm, eating disorders, and other destructive behaviors, and are now in recovery. The school was established in 2017 utilizing a project-based learning curriculum to create bold, prepared, and balanced students, all of whom are dedicated to living life in recovery.

The Senior Humanities Class fall project is the production of the 5280 High School documentary pilot. The concept of a student driven documentary series about their experiences in recovery is the creation of Aliza Cruz Moore, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, who states, "It's always a challenge developing a project-based curriculum and this project has it all. It is hands-on, collaborative, and challenging for the students, who see the real-life relevance of what they are learning". OCBN's Dennis Stretar is teaching the art of documentary filmmaking to the seniors and will serve as Executive Producer for the series. Visit www.OCBN.online for his documentary filmmaking and broadcast journalism background.



A major part of the learning process will have each student deconstruct the video on the right (www.vimeo.com/854786300) and substitute their own interviews (and other video assets they create), to produce a short documentary about some aspects of 5280 High School. They will be graded on their documentary and then will work directly with Mr Stretar to create the pilot discussed above. This approach is considered the most effective way to learn documentary film making. The class is taught and recorded on the Zoom platform for screen sharing and to allow students to review past classes.



Based on the success of the documentary pilot, the plan is to do 12 more episodes that will feature each of the 12 Steps of Recovery, as presented by the students. Each student in recovery has taken the 12 Steps program and will lend a unique perspective with their experiences.

When the documentary pilot is released, it is hoped that a coalition of behavioral health advocates and organizations will help promote the documentary to their networks and the community-at-large. Getting this example of one of the positive solutions to overcoming addiction and supporting recovery, is something we want to shine a light on. To learn more about this initiative contact;

Dennis Stretar, 303-619-7562, DennisStretar@OCBN.online
For more information about 5280 High School visit www.5280highschool.org

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