

**From:** [hillkris](#)

**Sent:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 8:33 PM

**To:** [William Howell](#)

**Subject:** Estes Park High School Parking Spots and Spirit Club

Hi Bill!

Thanks so much for your generosity towards the youth here in Estes Park and your belief in the building of spirit and pride in their school and in turn, themselves. It's a good start to a strong foundation that we can continue to build on!

This will be the Second Annual "The Spot" painting made possible by Sunrise Rotary. The kids have submitted their Spot concepts for approval, as well as signed a contract agreeing to keep the artwork positive and appropriate. We have designated August 12th as our painting day. The money contributed by Rotary was used to buy paintbrushes, rollers, paint, tarps, tape, trays and more.

This event not only kicked off the senior year for our students but spurred on a new group called "Senior Spirit Squad" made up of parents that embraced the project and expanded upon it by having small celebratory events for the Senior Class through-out the year. It reignited interest and buy-in from parents who had essentially walked away from the district disheartened and disgruntled. They were happy to be re-engaged and the students throughout the school benefitted from this spirit of recommitment and belief for better!

The second project I am hopeful you will see as beneficial and along the same vein is the formation of a Student Spirit Squad. This has not existed in the school as long as I have been a part of the public school, which started in 2009. There is a growing number of students that are not participating in extracurricular activities, and I feel a Spirit Squad would be a way to grab students that may not feel they have the experience or talents needed to participate in other arenas. It needs to be student led. Parents have always been the creators and decorators for anything celebrating sports clubs and other groups such as band. The kids have not been given an opportunity to be in a leadership and creator role to help bring this to life and be a part of building the school pride and culture. This is a perfect opportunity for both!! I intend to have an adult sponsor to support and guide them when needed and to help them organize and coordinate spirit activities and fundraisers to keep their club growing. A donation towards this club would be used for supplies to be used to create locker decorations, posters and banners and other spirit-driven projects.

Grateful for your support and generous donations. We are building a belief in better and these projects are a part of that foundation.

Thank you,  
Kristen Hill, Art Teacher  
Estes Park High School