

**DRUMMING Up Student Success at the NEST**  
**Sebastian Elementary “A Performing Arts School of Choice”**  
**Ashley Kohlstedt**  
**2020-2021**

**The Goal:** It is an exciting time at Sebastian Elementary. As we initiate a strategic three-year plan to transform into the only Performing Arts School of Choice in Indian River County, it is our goal to purchase snare drums through the Education Foundation Grant. Group drumming will offer our students the unique and valuable experience of participating on a drum line, which will foster individual self-worth and team building skills. The concept of an elementary drumline is rare and Sebastian Elementary aspires to build a music program that will build pride amongst students, increase reading and mathematics aptitudes, and create motivation that will lead to participation in music programs at the secondary and college levels. Brain research supports the connection between drumming and improving focus, creativity and analytical processes while increasing the ability to concentrate. Embedding percussion opportunities into an integrated arts program will provide life changing opportunities that will motivate students academically and socially, which will strengthen skills throughout all content area.

**Amount requested:** \$3,414.30

**Targeted Population:** Our target population will be all K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at Sebastian Elementary. K-2 students will be exposed to the drums during their monthly music blocks and 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders will receive more intense instruction with the drums. We plan to utilize the drums as a club in after school extracurricular experiences.

**The issue:** When analyzing subgroup achievement data for Sebastian Elementary, proficiency in reading, math and science are below state and district averages amongst Students with Disabilities and African American students. Like many schools, Sebastian Elementary serves a diverse population that require a broad range of instructional and emotional needs. Our School Improvement Initiatives include nurturing and fostering each student’s needs through Social Emotional Learning strategies and implementing research-based differentiation for all students. Multiple studies have offered evidence that connect music education with a large array of academic and social benefits. Additional research has shown that quality music education will help students master skills in other academic areas, specifically math, reading, science and social studies. Broadening our music department with percussion instruments will offer a research-based approach to provide quality opportunities and instruction that will improve all students’ academic and social development.

**The Change:** As a result of this grant, students will participate in group drumming experiences, which builds teamwork skills and helps students focus attention on one activity at a time. Drums funded by the grant will be integrated into curriculum and connected with Florida Standards. For example, Primary students will connect sound and vibrations and repeated counting through drumming while intermediate students will practice fractions and/or properties of matters through drumming. Drumming is beneficial to children's mental health and helps with overall brain development. When students are actively engaged with an opportunity that requires pleasure and perseverance, increased mastery in other content areas will be evident.

**he Action:** The music teacher will incorporate introductory drum sessions into her music program during designated music times. She will work with teachers to integrate drumming activities into standards-based instruction throughout content areas. Each grade level will use drumming to integrate reading, math, science or social studies standards.

For after school enrichment, Sebastian Elementary students will be offered the unique opportunity to participate on Indian River's only elementary drum-line team as an after-school experience. We will seek a qualified candidate that understands drumming techniques and forms that will train our music teacher and members of this rising drum-line team. We hope Sebastian River High School band students embrace the opportunity to grow their leadership capacity by volunteering and mentoring Sebastian Elementary's aspiring drumline members. Our goal for the drumline members is to gain confidence and build pride through performing at school and community events.

**Grant Oversight Monitoring Progress and Results:** Principal Letitia Hart, Assistant Principal Ashley Kohlstedt, and Music Teacher Hailie Oliveira will be responsible for the oversight and sustainability of the program. Student ability and application will be monitored by performance tasks, which will be given during the music block. Assistant Principal will monitor for reading, math and science growth and proficiency through I-ready Diagnostics, Unify Assessments, running records, and State Assessments.

**Itemized Budget:**

Snare Drums	10 x 229.95= 2,229.50
Drumsticks	10 X 11.49=114.90
Drum Stands	10x 106.99=1,069.90
	\$3414.30