

ATTN: THE EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

To Whom It May Concern,

- **Name of Project: Fundamental Transfers: Connecting Academic Dots with (Drum)lines**
- In a continuous effort to see a positive school culture/climate flourish, Gifford Middle School is proud to offer a Percussion Ensemble and Drumming Fundamentals class during the school day. This school year, in the first day of learning, we explored cross-curricular content in the areas of mathematics, language decoding, and reading, all in the span of one lesson on musical rhythms. We learned how to recognize musical symbols, how many pulses (fractions) of a measure these musical symbols receive, and how to decode, process, and read-aloud these notes and rhythms, all in real time. Contributed to the “Covid slide” this past school year, several students have been affected not only academically, but from an emotional and social standpoint. By offering this class as a combination of 6th - 8th graders, with ability levels ranging from brand new beginners to advanced third year players, we have already seen several lower-level test-taking students begin to thrive in a healthy peer-mentoring and drumming environment, taking on leadership roles in a positive manner, in a safe setting, and experiencing a feeling of success in the school setting. By using supplemental resources in this class to reinforce core content standards and best practices of social emotional learning, a positive school climate will be supported through measurable growth.
- The Amount Requested and the Total Cost of this project is **\$8,039.01**
- The Targeted Population for this project is **approximately 60 current 6th-8th grade students at Gifford Middle School.**
- **Succinct Summary**
 - The Issue: Now more than ever, our students are in a period of emotional uncertainty after last year’s “reimagining” of what we all have come to know as a traditional school environment. Some of our 7th graders remember their last “in-person school as 5th grade. For our 6th graders, 4th grade was the last brick and mortar experience for some of them. Even for our 8th graders, for a number of them, their last memory of being in school was 6th grade of 2019. Middle school is often said to be the three toughest years socially, emotionally, and mentally for a young adult.
 - The Change: These monies will help our school increase the School Rating areas of School Climate and Success, by enabling students to develop stronger personal metrics of success through musical study and performance. Additionally, students will begin to make real-life situational transfers between studies in this class, and their core content classes, ultimately increasing test scores, which are a large factor of the overall school grade.
 - The Action: Funds will be utilized to provide various material to grow musical opportunities for these students to experience success. One such funded item will be a set of Method Books supplemental to the class curriculum. These will be used on a regular basis to explore cross-curricular concepts including but not limited to rhythm studies of time and space (mathematics,) note recognition and performance (decoding, processing and play-aloud concepts correlating to language and reading,) and instrument tuning (geometric mathematics and the science of soundwaves). Additionally, a yearly subscription to a sheet music generator, “Sightreading Factory,” will be purchased as supplementary material to monitor fluency in progressively more challenging music (decoding on sight). Funds will also be used to enhance our students’ experience by purchasing much needed gear such as practice pads and a keyboard instrument to allow the most hands-on experience possible for as many students as possible. Class sets of sticks and mallets will provide students new opportunities in the newly piloted GMS Drumline. Remaining funds will be used to allow students the opportunity to learn from professional drummers in the community that we will bring in to class to hear their success stories and experiences to serve as inspiration, along with a class set

of shirts for students to wear on spirit days and for performances, to empower our students to possess a deeper sense of ownership and belonging in this unique class at our school.

- **Grant Oversight:** Mr. Greenwood, Director of Bands at Gifford Middle School and 8th Grade Team Leader will be responsible for the implementation and oversight of the project. Additional oversight will be provided by Ms. Tosha Jones, principal.
- **Monitoring Progress and Results:** Progress and results will be monitored through collaboration between Mr. Greenwood and the GMS Administration team in areas related to School Cultural and Climate in monthly meetings. Data will be reported through monthly grade level meetings and the School Profile on the school and school district website on a yearly basis.
- **Volunteers:** Community Volunteers are provided the opportunity to support this project through the continuation of after school musical and academic tutoring, and peer-mentoring. On average, one - two volunteers per week from 3:00-4:15pm on Tuesdays after school.
- **Itemized Budget:**

Total

\$8,039.01

Item	Cost	Ordering from	Quantity
Marimba Mallets	\$659.85	Melody Music Vero Beach	15
Stick Bags	\$167.85	steveweissmusic.com	2
Yamaha 4.3 Octave Standard Padouk Marimba	\$3,614.90	steveweissmusic.com	1
Snare Drum Sticks	\$349.65	Melody Music Vero Beach	35
Daddario Practice Pads	\$699.80	Melody Music Vero Beach	20
"The Packet" Percussion Method Book	\$605.05	store.thepacket.us	20
Marching Bass Drum Mallets	\$381.90	Melody Music Vero Beach	6
Marching Snare Drum Sticks	\$119.90	Melody Music Vero Beach	10
Marching Tenor Sticks	\$95.92	Melody Music Vero Beach	8
Clinicians	\$870.00	Various Community Drummers	29
Sightreading Factory Subscription	\$34.99	sightreadingfactory.com	1
Shirts	\$439.20	customink.com	60

Maintenance costs for the program will be supported through the fundraising efforts of the Gifford Middle School Band Parents Association, the school allocated band budget, and Title I monies.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel Greenwood
Director of Bands
8th Grade Team Leader
Gifford Middle School