

Teachers Say Give a Note Grants Are a “Blessing” for Their Music Programs

Fall 2015, 16 schools received grants to help their teachers bolster their music programs and reach more students with high-quality music education. Many of these dedicated music teachers often pay for program needs out of their own pockets, so many said the grant money is especially welcomed.

One teacher, **Alandra L. Abrams**, a music teacher at [Tilden Middle School](#) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, says, “I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Give a Note Foundation for giving us the grant of \$3,000 to support our music program at Tilden. It means so much to have others recognize the need to support music in our schools.

“We know that music programs that are sufficiently supplied can and will offer opportunities for students to learn in a different way. We also believe that the experiences the students have in music filters back into their academic education and makes those students better learners. Music also reinforces discipline, collaboration, and social interaction among youth. Students learn to work together and understand the importance of that in order to create a beautiful product, in our case, music,” Abrams says.

“I was blessed to have a Junior High School music teacher, Ms. McCaulka, who took the time to teach me and show me how the love of music could change my life. It not only changed my life, it saved my life. It was what kept me going in my challenging life, and it is with the same fervor that I extend that compassion to my students.

“Money, such as the grant from the Give a Note Foundation, helps me to supply my music program without digging as much into my pocket. My music program has no budget, and this grant is precious to me and greatly appreciated. May you continue to share with other schools and receive the joy, blessing, and smiles that will come your way,” Abrams said.

NAfME Immediate Past President **Nancy E. Ditmer** presented grant checks to the two Detroit schools. She says, “Having the opportunity to present Give a Note grants to Chrysler Elementary and Detroit School of Arts was one of the highlights of my professional career. The student performers were spectacular, and the teachers and administrators were so gracious and grateful for the support that it warmed my heart more than words can express. To support these music programs that have so little in terms of financial support but so much in terms of student talent and teacher dedication was a privilege and an honor!”

Other 2015–16 Give a Note grant recipients shared what the funds will mean to their programs:

Adam Brooks, North Atlanta (Georgia) High School Bands, says, “The instrumental music teachers are truly grateful for your generous donation to our programs. We all will be using the allocation for the following items: new music for our Performance Evaluation Season supplemental instruction and master classes supplemental materials (tuners, valve oil, reeds, folders, rosin, etc.). Again, we are truly grateful and indebted to your organization. Thank you for your consideration.”

“I was so excited and humbled upon receiving the news that [Chrysler Elementary School](#) was selected to be one of the music grant recipients from the Give a Note Foundation and 21st Century Fox. There are so many resources that will aid and reinforce our music program here at Chrysler School,” says **Mona Godbold**, the school’s vocal and general music teacher.

“I will be able to have visual aids, technology, classroom rhythmic instruments, a pilot recorder program, educational music-related field trips, and sheet music for concerts for older grades. Due to budget cuts coupled with lack of funding for music education in our district, many of the above enhancements would be nearly impossible to implement. There are some things that teachers alone just can’t personally fund from their own pockets to ensure that their students receive an optimal education. The music grant will allow me to further expose my students to the wonderful gift of music and to have an even more enriched musical experience,” Godbold says.

Matthew Arnold, principal of Richard Green Central Park Elementary School in Minneapolis, says, “We are incredibly honored to be chosen for this grant. We have an excellent music educator [**Corina Miller**] at Green Central who will use the grant to support the excellent instruction she provides each day to our students. Thank you for including us in this opportunity!”

“The Jefferson Music Program is proud to have received the 21st Century Fox Grant, on behalf of Give a Note Foundation,” **Edgar Torres**, Music Director, Thomas Jefferson High School in Los Angeles says. “Funding for the music program at Jefferson has had its many challenges. From travel expenses to day-to-day necessities such as reeds, mouthpieces, books, cleaning supplies, and percussion sticks/mallets, the grant will help ease the purchase of these items. There will now be a few less concerns to worry about in the many facets of the Jefferson music program, and more emphasis can be placed on the students and the music education skills they are learning. Again, the students in the Jefferson Music Program are very thankful of Give a Note Foundation and 21st Century Fox and the support they bring to underserved music programs.”

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