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**National Foundation Awards Grants to Outstanding NPS' Music Programs**

NORFOLK, VA – Norfolk Public Schools (NPS) Music Department is extremely excited to announce that several schools have been awarded music grants from The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation.

Blair, Northside, Norview, and Azalea Gardens Middle Schools and Lake Taylor High School all have recently benefitted from grants awarded in the form of new instruments or funding to repair existing ones.

“We are so appreciative of the grants we have received from The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation, with the support of the Goode Family. With the students engaged in virtual learning, these grants ensure that all students have access to working instruments,” said Danielle Roby, NPS' Senior Coordinator of Music Education and Theater.

To date, nine schools from NPS have been recipients of The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation grants, which are supported through the generosity of the local Goode Family Foundation. An application for support was submitted by each school and the foundation found their programs to be a worthwhile investment, allowing more students to be able to play and experience the benefits of music education.

“We believe in supporting schools that recognize the importance of music education for their students,” said Felice Mancini, President & CEO of The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation. “Through this grant of instruments that the Goode Family made possible, they can give this opportunity to even more students who want to play and learn music. The benefits are tremendous.”

The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation helps under-served schools with minimal budgets by donating new instruments and often replacing some that are more than 30 years old.

“Between these grants and the extraordinary efforts of our teaching staff, we will help our young musicians continue to pursue their instrumental studies,” Roby said. “It is not just an instrument. The awards send a message that music matters and that people care deeply that our students are given the opportunity to develop their talents.”

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