

# PRESS RELEASE

## Camdenton R-III School District Education Foundation, Inc.

P O Box 1409 – Camdenton, MO 65020 – 573.346.9213

*"Steering the Course for the Future"*

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### **Metallophones Motivate Student Learning**

According to Camdenton School District Music Teacher Carrie Viebrock, students at Hurricane Deck and Osage Beach Elementary (OBE) facilities are thrilled with the unique new musical instruments recently granted to them by the Camdenton R-III School District Education Foundation.

"Some of the kids say they sound like Christmas bells . . . others comment on their shiny bars . . . and many ask 'what are they called again?'" says Viebrock. What the 330 kindergartners through fourth graders do know for sure is that these instruments are making a big difference in allowing them hands-on learning, instead of only listening to a lecture or watching a demonstration.

Viebrock's metallophone project is one of four extremely worthy grants awarded last May by the Camdenton Education Foundation. The grant program is a result of a payroll deduction process launched by the Foundation in August 2011 in which 39 teachers & staff donated monthly to the Foundation. The Foundation matched those donations with a total of \$4,086 for important education programs that fall outside the normal operating budget. The four grant projects are targeted to impact over 450 students across four campus facilities.

Viebrock explains, "Many students are kinesthetic learners which means that learning takes place by the student carrying out a physical activity. With that in mind, students experience reading and playing note values, rather than just being able to identify them. Students then internalize musical skills, since they are able to play these pitched instruments. These metallophones truly motivate student learning."

The Orff approach to music education, developed by the German composer Carl Orff (1895–1982), combines music, movement, drama, and speech into lessons that are similar to child's world of play. Camdenton School District has utilized Orff music instruments since the late 1980's when former music educator, Kay Pirch, began purchasing them for use in the music classroom. Throughout the years, Orff instruments were added to the collection by Judy Wingate, Martha Wood, and Steve Greene who currently leads the Orff Ensemble at Oak Ridge Intermediate with the largest collection in the district. Instrumentation for Orff includes bass, alto, and soprano metallophones and xylophones, glockenspiels and various other instruments.

"These two soprano metallophones were added to our collection of Orff instruments at OBE and Hurricane Deck. Since these instruments are very expensive, I wouldn't have been able to purchase them out of my normal music budgets, so I am very grateful to receive the grant. It enabled me to have more students play instruments at the same time, rather than having a longer wait time. Kind of like the 'fast passes' at Disneyworld, so the kids think!" exclaims Viebrock.

Viebrock notes that in addition to school concerts for families, they often get calls from organizations such as nursing homes, churches, and the Elks Club wanting to book the Orff Club to perform in the month of December or during the Spring months. She says that the public performances are extremely valuable for the children as they are so proud to show off their skills and give back to the community.

"I simply wanted to increase the number of Orff instruments for my students at both schools, so they could get the most out of their musical experience. Receiving the grant made me feel blessed, because I felt that my expertise was valued and thus, the acquisition of these instruments blessed my students in return."

Viebrock concludes by saying, "I am also grateful to Mr. Shawn Dandoy and Mrs. Renee Slack, my principals when I was considering the grant, as they encouraged me to apply. Without them regarding music as a priority, I wouldn't have been able to pursue this project. That's pretty cool!"

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PHOTO CAPTION: Carrie Viebrock, Camdenton Elementary Music Teacher, and Kayle Stewart and Alex Brown, 2nd Graders at Hurricane Deck Elementary, study their new metallophones.

Contact: Marsha Schoeneman  
Foundation PR/Communications Chairperson  
573-480-4669  
Foundation email: camdenton\_edu\_foundation@yahoo.com  
Personal email: singaporemarsha@yahoo.com