

## Teacher's Vision Grant Summary

Employee Name: Matt Herring

School Name: Merriwether Middle School

Year of Implementation: 2024 - 2025

Project Title: Rhythm without Borders

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your generosity in awarding this grant.

Through the funding provided, I was able to purchase a variety of world percussion instruments, specifically cajons, tubanos, djembes, and timbaus, which have greatly enhanced the musical education in my class.

My students have utilized these instruments in numerous ways, broadening their understanding of world music and rhythms. For instance, the djembes have opened up a world of West African rhythms, enabling students to experience the power and complexity of traditional African music firsthand. The cajons have been instrumental in introducing students to Spanish music, and have allowed them to explore the versatility of this box-shaped drum across all genres. Students have embraced the challenge of learning these new instruments, and their enthusiasm is evident every time we use them.

Through these instruments, the students have developed their hand drumming abilities, learning how to produce bass, tone, and slap sounds on them. Their rhythm reading skills and their tempo maintenance have also been improved by using these instruments. Exercises that may have been less interesting otherwise are now full of excitement because of the students' eagerness to play these drums.

These examples only scratch the surface of what these world percussion instruments offer my students. We are continually discovering new ways to incorporate them into our curriculum, from creating original compositions to studying complex polyrhythms. My students and I are thrilled to continue exploring the rich musical traditions these instruments represent.

We are profoundly grateful for your generosity and for the opportunities that have arisen as a result of this grant. The impact of these instruments goes beyond music education; they are fostering cultural awareness, creativity, and a genuine love for global music among our students. Thank you again for awarding this grant and for all you do to support education in our schools. Your contribution has truly made a significant difference in enriching our students' musical journey.

Sincerely,

Matt Herring