

Employee Name: Laura Herring

School: Douglas Elementary

Year of Implementation: 2025-2026

Project Title: “X is for Xylophone”

This grant enabled me to purchase two additional xylophones to add to our Orff ensemble. Orff instruments such as xylophones and glockenspiels are extremely beneficial to elementary music students. They are accessible, easy to play, and offer a safe and fun hands-on approach for young students to explore and create music. The one downside to these instruments is that they are not cheap.

We have been able to explore more concepts and learn more songs this year thanks to the accessibility these additional instruments have provided. My fourth graders used these instruments while learning about sound waves and vibration. They explored in class how the instrument produces sound and experimented with how different sizes and materials create different pitches. Many of my fifth graders have selected these instruments to help accompany their self-composed commercial music. These instruments have been especially appreciated while introducing our younger students to Orff instruments, as they can all play in pairs at the same time. This project meets the needs of all students, and these materials will continue to be used for many years to come. My students and I are very thankful for having received this grant!

Thanks again!

Laura Herring

