

Kim Stefansson
Escambia County School District
Public Relations Coordinator
kstefansson@escambia.k12.fl.us
850 469-6219 (Office)
850-393-0539 (Cell)

NEWS RELEASE
April 12, 2016
For Immediate Release

Bellview Middle School Band Asking for Community Support *Instrument Drive Now through the End of May*

Pensacola, FL: Escambia County School District's Fine Arts teachers are asking our community to help Bellview Middle School offer the middle school band experience to as many of their students as possible through an instrument drive. The instrument drive will be kicked off this Friday, April 15, downtown at Gallery Night.

"We have had outstanding community support when we have asked for help before, and we are hoping there are people willing to do so again," said Angela Barberi, Escambia County Schools' Fine Arts program coordinator. "It breaks our hearts when an interested student can't participate in a program such as middle school band because their family just can't afford the cost of renting or buying an instrument."

If you Google the benefits of being in a school band, you will find many articles listing a variety of benefits from students learning to think creatively, learning about other cultures by first learning about their music, learning how to expect a higher level of performance from their own work, learning how to operate as part of a team, increased levels of self discipline, all the way to increased scores on standardized tests.

"Plus, students in a band makes friends and memories," said Barberi. "We also know that when students connect to others through bandm orchestra, chorus or art, it has a similar effect of joining a sports team. Cohorts are created that motivate students to stay in school until graduation."

Anyone wanting to help students interested in Band at Bellview Middle can help in a couple of ways. They can call the school or the Escambia Public School's Foundation to make a targeted donation to help pay for instruments, or they can contact the school and donate a new or gently used instrument. Financial donations may also be used to refurbish donated instruments.

"Or, you can bring an instrument with you to Gallery Night on April 15 and drop it off at our ECSD Fine Arts booth on Artists' Row," Barberi explained. "While you are there, you can enjoy student created art and a performance of Broadway show tunes."

Billy Buff, Drama teacher at West Florida High School said, “Four West Florida High School thespians will be performing musical theater songs from both classic and modern musicals and monologues. They are Paige Hurst, Jenna Ward, Alex Eddins, and Alena Swango.”

Those interested in helping to get out the word, can also stop by and pick up a flyer (also attached to this email). Instruments may also be dropped off at the J.E. Hall Center (go to the Visitor's Entrance and ask for the Fine Arts Office). The Bellview Middle School Instrument Drive will run through the end of May.

Questions about Fine Arts in ECSD schools and this instrument drive should be directed to the ECSD Fine Arts office, in the J.E. Hall Center of Texar Dr., 850-469-5311.

Media queries about any event listed on this release should be directed to Kim Stefansson, at 850-469-6219 orkstefansson@escambia.k12.fl.us.

Like ECSD on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ecsdf1

Go to Escambia Schools Public Relations on www.facebook.com/ecsd.public to see pictures of recent events.

Visit ECSD's web page at www.escambiaschools.org