

## Fontana Unified School District

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### SOUTHRIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS TO RECEIVE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS National Foundation Awards Grant to Outstanding Local Music Program

FONTANA, CA – Southridge Middle School will soon receive several musical instruments, thanks to The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation.

With many music programs across the country losing vital funding, the foundation helps underserved schools that don't have adequate funds to purchase or repair their instruments.

An application for support was submitted by Southridge Middle School and the foundation found their program to be a worthwhile investment. The school will receive a set of concert bells, string bass, violin, flute, clarinet, tenor and alto saxophones, cellos, bass clarinets, and violas, all for a total retail value of \$21,044.

"At Southridge we are proud and excited to receive this grant to bring together students with a desire to learn and play music with the instruments necessary to realize their dreams," said Principal Gerald Mullins. "These instruments can be expensive and we are very thankful to the good people at Mr. Holland's Opus who are helping us bridge the gap between the kids who want to play and the tools they need!"

"Musical instruments are expensive," said Superintendent Dr. Leslie Boozer. "We are grateful to The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation for this generous donation which will allow more students to be able to play and experience the benefits of music education."

FUSD Board President Barbara Chavez agrees. "With The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation grant, more students will be able to realize their dream of playing an instrument."

"Learning music in school is a way to engage kids and give them something that makes them better students and better people," said Felice Mancini, President and CEO of The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation. "They deserve every tool available to help them receive a quality education, and we want to insure that music is in that toolbox."

The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation donates new and refurbished musical instruments to under-served schools in an effort to give youngsters the many benefits of music education, help them to be better students and inspire creativity and expression through playing music. The organization was inspired by the 1995 motion picture Mr. Holland's Opus and founded by Michael Kamen, who composed the music

for the movie and countless others. In the last 19 years, over 18,000 new and refurbished instruments have been donated to over 1,311 schools across the country. More information can be found at [www.mhopus.org](http://www.mhopus.org).

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For more information call Oliver Wong Ah Sun, Chief of Staff (909) 357-7600 ext. 29106



Southridge Middle School Advanced Band performing at Spring 2015 Concert.