

Update from Harlem!

Instruments help jumpstart a band program



“The look of joy on their faces the first time they opened their instruments was unforgettable,” [Harlem Success Academy](#) Music Teacher Colleen Stewart told us by email. Over the summer, Music For HOPE collected and sent 22 instruments to the Academy as part of our [encore](#). Program.



The packed trunk you see to the left belongs to Music for HOPE Director Mike Jones. The instruments (7 clarinets, 4 flutes, 4 trumpets 2 coronets, 3 trombones) were labeled and shipped to the Harlem Success Academy in September—just in time for the new school year.

The Academy is a Title 1 Public charter elementary school in Harlem, NYC. Ms. Stewart previously described to us the Success Academy's mission: **“To provide scholars with the tools to succeed in life. We believe in educating the whole child.”**

This Mindset has led to inspiring outcomes: “Despite a student population that largely lives in abject poverty, we have achieved tremendous results; **our scholars out-perform the NYC public school average**... Our test scores placed us 9th out of more than 800 public elementary schools in New York City.”

Music for HOPE sent the instruments to help Harlem Success Academy start their new fourth and fifth-grade band program this fall. Ms. Stewart says the band program will help the students “develop into well-rounded and culturally literate human beings.”

The pictures provided show the students' first lessons. Ms. Stewart has put the pictures in the student portfolios, “so they can see at the end of the year how far they've come!”



And this is only the beginning. Mike tells us, “This is not a one shot deal.”



With over 50 students anticipated for the band program, more instruments will be needed. "Music for Hope will continue to work with Harlem Success Academy," Mike said, "in hopes that any child who wants to learn an instrument, will have one in their hand."

We were SO happy to hear from Ms. Stewart and are glad the instruments we provided are helping the school to achieve their goals.

We thank NBC29's Kasey Hott for reporting this important story for Charlottesville "News at 6":

<http://www.nbc29.com/story/15626489/music-for-hope-donates-instruments-to-kids-in-harlem>

