

# **SAN BRUNO**

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## Community Foundation

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SAN BRUNO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
AWARDS GRANTS TOTALING \$290,000 TO SUPPORT  
MUSIC EDUCATION IN SAN BRUNO'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

***Two-Year Extension of the Music Education Strategic Initiative Provides Seed Funding for New Parkside Intermediate School Sixth Grade Music Program and Bolsters Capuchino High School's Music Program***

**San Bruno, California, April 14, 2022** – The Board of Directors of the San Bruno Community Foundation recently approved a two-year extension of its Music Education Strategic Initiative to make music education a hallmark of San Bruno's public schools. Over the next two school years, the Foundation will make investments totaling \$290,000 in the music programs at Parkside Intermediate School and Capuchino High School. The grants will provide seed funding to launch a new music program for sixth grade students at Parkside as well as support transportation, instrument, and other music program expenses at Capuchino.

"The San Bruno Community Foundation has had a long-standing commitment to see music education flourish in our schools," said Malissa Netane-Jones, President of the Foundation's Board of Directors. "The many ways in which music education boosts academic achievement

and benefits students' coordination, memory, concentration, math, and teamwork skills are well documented. We also know that music strengthens community and cultural ties, provides an outlet for creative expression, and enhances the mental health of musicians and listeners alike. After two difficult years of the COVID-19 pandemic marked by social isolation and distance learning, what better way for SBCF to invest in public education and the well-being of our children than to continue the Music Education Strategic Initiative and ensure that beautiful music fills the halls of Parkside and Capuchino and beyond."

A collaboration of the San Bruno Community Foundation, the San Bruno Park School District, Capuchino High School, the San Bruno Education Foundation, and the Capuchino High School Alumni Association, the Music Education Strategic Initiative was launched in 2017 as a three-year effort to ensure that San Bruno's public schools provide equitable access to music education for all children through a continuum of music opportunities, from elementary through high school, that inspire, build self-confidence, and develop life skills in students, with the San Bruno community sharing in the value, pride, and appreciation of their contributions. The initial SBCF grants provided \$495,000 to support the music programs at Capuchino, Parkside, and all elementary schools in the San Bruno Park School District. In 2020, the Initiative was extended with an additional year of funding from SBCF totaling \$68,000, with funds benefiting the San Bruno Park School District being expended in the current school year after a one-year delay due to the pandemic.

Over the past five years, music program activities funded through the Music Education Strategic Initiative have included:

- New uniforms for the Capuchino High School Marching Band;
  - Transportation for Capuchino music groups to attend performances and competitions;
  - Instruments and supplies for the Parkside Intermediate School music program;
  - Elementary music education for all SBPSD elementary schools through Music for Minors;
- and

- Fund development activities to ensure that the San Bruno Education Foundation and the Capuchino High School Alumni Association are able to sustain the music programs once SBCF funding sunsets.

The new set of music education grants from the San Bruno Community Foundation includes \$270,000 to the San Bruno Education Foundation to jump start a new sixth grade music program at Parkside Intermediate School (\$150,000 in 2022-2023 and \$120,000 in 2023-2024). Under the new program, Parkside sixth graders will be able to enroll in a year-long music class, such as instrumental music, chorus/vocal music, and music exploration, with the goal of sparking a passion for further music instruction in students. The program aims to remedy the pandemic's impact on music instruction in the San Bruno Park School District, which operated in distance-learning mode for most of the 2020-2021 school year. In the current school year, staffing challenges and the Omicron surge have continued to impact the district's instructional program and its music program in particular. The fourth and fifth grade music program continues to be taught remotely by the vendor Music for Minors. Coupled with the 2020-2021 remote school program, where very little music was taught in these grades, the district's rising fifth and sixth grade students have been deprived of quality music instruction over the past two years.

The grant funding will enable the San Bruno Park School District to hire a dedicated sixth grade music teacher at Parkside and cover the teacher's compensation package for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years. SBCF's infusion of capital will boost the middle school music program in ways that the district would not be able to do on its own. With a more robust music program and set of elective offerings for the next two years, Parkside will have the time it needs to adjust its staffing structure so that the district will be able to assume the costs of funding the music teacher beginning in the 2024-2025 school year. The grant will also cover related program expenses, including purchasing and repairing instruments, sheet music, and other supplies for the sixth-grade music courses.

“Historically, San Bruno’s public school music programs in middle and high school have been a point of community pride and an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of San Bruno’s youth, but the toll of the pandemic over the past two years on our music programs has been significant,” said Dr. Michael Milliken, Interim Superintendent of the San Bruno Park School District. “We are deeply grateful for the support from the San Bruno Community Foundation to re-create the music program at Parkside in a way that will share the many benefits of music education with our rising sixth graders and bring the joy of music back to our community. The San Bruno Park School District would not be able to launch the ‘jump start’ program without this investment from SBCF.”

As part of the Initiative, the Capuchino High School music program will receive a total of \$20,000 (\$10,000 each year over the next two school years). Despite the challenges the program has faced throughout the pandemic, student interest in band, orchestra, and chorus classes has continued to thrive, while the costs of properly supporting these students through instruction and performance have grown. The grant funds will boost the high school music program by providing funding for transportation and other costs related to performances and competitions, replenishing the instrument supply, and instrumental/vocal sectional coaching.

“The San Bruno Community Foundation’s investment in music education has a lasting impact for our students as well as the broader community. Providing students with opportunities to participate in performances and competitions fortifies their love for music and offers avenues for showcasing their talents and in a way that the entire community can share,” said Capuchino Principal Jesse Boise. “We are also excited about SBCF’s support for the middle school music program, which will inspire younger students to pursue music and strengthen the pipeline of students passionate about music at the high school level.”

Including the recently approved grants, SBCF’s investment in music education at San Bruno’s public schools has totaled \$833,000 since the Music Education Strategic Initiative’s inception in 2017. To fund the Initiative, the Foundation is utilizing a portion of the restitution funds

resulting from the City of San Bruno’s settlement with Pacific Gas & Electric Company following the 2010 gas pipeline explosion that devastated San Bruno’s Crestmoor neighborhood.

The San Bruno Community Foundation is the nonprofit organization created by the City of San Bruno to administer the \$70 million in restitution funds received from PG&E after the devastating 2010 gas pipeline explosion in San Bruno’s Crestmoor neighborhood. The Foundation serves the San Bruno community by investing in projects, programs, services, and facilities that have significant and lasting benefits. Through making grants, leveraging partnerships, and taking advantage of other resources, the SBCF assists and enables the community to maximize shared investments and realize their subsequent enhancements and benefits.

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