



(above) Student at All Five Preschool enjoying the drums.

When school budgets get tight, the arts are often the first to go. But educators know better:

“Arts education is essential for student well-being as well as for academic success. Students with access to arts education are five times less likely to drop out of school, four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement and four times more likely to receive a bachelor’s degree. And in this particular

moment, arts classes can also play a critical role in helping students recover from the dual traumas of systemic racism and a global pandemic." according to Julie Baker, executive director of California Arts Advocates (EdSource 10/2/22)

EPAK grants fund a wide range of teacher requested art and music projects in our twelve schools. This spring a number of teachers reported the success of these efforts.

"Instrumental opportunities have been a big part of my goals for students this year and being able to integrate pianos in my room has motivated students more than I could have imagined. I am so incredibly thankful for this grant because of the impact it had on my students. There are no words for how proud I was to see how hard my students worked to be their best on this new instrument and to succeed in playing on their own in front of a huge audience. It is truly heartwarming to know that these are the moments students will remember as they get older and reflect on their elementary time in music." - Kimberly G., Los Robles McNair Academy

"Thanks to the EPAK grant, we have expanded the dramatic play area allowing children to spend much more time in it. This time has helped them to interact, socialize, share space and material, and learn to take turns which is really important for their development. We have purchased a few more drums which makes children more excited about music. Children are dancing, jumping, singing, and sharing all the materials. At All Five, we feel so grateful for these grants that help us as educators to expand children's knowledge and experience." - Austreberta G., All Five Preschool

EPAK is proud to partner with our teachers and supporters to keep the arts alive and well in our Eastern Menlo Park and East Palo Alto schools. Thank you, EPAK community.

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East Palo Alto Kids Foundation (EPAK) believes that all students deserve an inspiring, engaging, and tailored classroom experience. For nearly 30 years, we have provided grants to teachers to enhance educational opportunities for students in the Ravenswood City School District (RCSD) and public charter schools in East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park.

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East Palo Alto Kids Foundation

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