



Students in Christell B.'s music class enjoying scarf dancing at East Palo Alto Charter School.



EPAK supports dedicated, motivated teachers who wish to make a difference in a child's life. Music teacher Christell B. from East Palo Alto Charter School described her goal to *“establish a music program that fosters a lifetime appreciation for the arts and supports the social and emotional learning of each child.”* This year, EPAK initiated a pilot program of “Special Grants,” and offered several schools larger grants to grow programs of wider impact. Christell applied for a special grant to purchase musical instruments to replace *“the few instruments we have that are beginning to fall apart.”* She wrote,

*The mission of the project is to continue to build a strong music program and explore a variety of musical styles and culture. Students have taken delight in new instruments such as the cowbell and the triangle, and their care of their instruments have helped develop individual responsibility.*

*Materials for TK-5 have supported cross-cultural studies such as adding interpretive dance to accompany music with use of scarves, ribbons and bells. This interpretive dance has given students an outlet to artistically combine movement and storytelling.*

EPAK grants are only possible because of your recognition of the importance of equity in education for all children. Our common goals underscore our mission. Christell summarized the impact of her EPAK special grant, ***“Music is a world language we all have in common. By utilizing these new materials, scholars deepened their musical knowledge, strengthened their SEL learning, and saw the common bond we have throughout the world.”***

EPAK hopes to continue the “Special Grants” program into the 2024-25 school year and into the future.

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East Palo Alto Kids Foundation (EPAK) believes that all students deserve an inspiring, engaging, and tailored classroom experience. For 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.

**EPAK is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.  
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**East Palo Alto Kids Foundation**  
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