



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Surprise! Baytown Junior musicians rejoicing after donation of instruments

Making beautiful music will be easier for some Baytown Junior School Band students thanks to a generous donation from Fidelity Investments on Tuesday.

The financial corporation donated more than \$23,000 worth of instruments to Baytown Junior School, where nearly 30 percent of the student body is involved in the band program.

"This is a very exciting day for Baytown Junior," said Band Director Carrie Faulkner. "This extremely gracious donation will allow more students to experience the joy of music. These instruments will make a great impact upon the lives of many students in our community that otherwise would not be able to participate in band."

"I am grateful to Fidelity Investments for this generous donation to Baytown Junior," said Principal Michael Wahl. "These instruments will enhance our band program tremendously. I want to thank Fidelity on behalf of our students, parents, and staff for investing in the future of our students."

The donation was made as part of the Fidelity FutureStage program, an arts education initiative created and funded by Fidelity Investments to support music programs in public schools.

Fidelity representatives bestowed the gifts after an informal concert by the sixth grade, honors, and symphonic bands in the school auditorium room. Students thought they were there to be recognized for a special honor. But after playing the mini concert, new instruments — six clarinets, eight trumpets, two alto saxophones, and a flute with green and white bows — were carried in by teachers and administrators, and given to their new owners.

The donated instruments came from a wish list identified by the school to help expand its growing music program and to provide students eager to participate but without access to instruments of their own or the means to rent them independently.

Seventy-nine percent of Baytown Junior students come from low-income families.



Fidelity Investments donated more than \$23,000 worth of instruments to Baytown Junior School on Tuesday. The donation was made as part of the Fidelity FutureStage program, an arts education initiative created and funded by Fidelity Investments to support music programs in public schools. [Photo Gallery](#)

So Tuesday's donation meant an upgrade for the lucky musicians who got a new instrument — and the promise for another child in the school to pick up an older saxophone or clarinet.

The donated items will belong to the junior school. But each will be entrusted to a single young musician for the year to practice, perfect, and perform.

Right away, the teens showed how much that means: Young trumpeters blew new trumpets. Young clarinet players drew resonant sounds from the highest quality instruments they'd ever touched.

"Fidelity is happy to make this donation to Baytown Junior School, especially at a time when the need to support the arts in our public schools is so prevalent," said Michael Stuart, vice president and branch manager of Fidelity Investments Clear Lake Investor Center. "We hope these new instruments will help Mrs. Faulkner continue to build an outstanding program here at Baytown Junior and provide more students with the opportunity to participate and explore their interest in the arts."

Stuart added that Baytown Junior was selected over 100 other schools from Galveston to Baytown.

Fidelity worked with The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation (MHOF) to select Baytown Junior, which serves approximately 700 students grades 6-8. MHOF is a national non-profit organization dedicated to bringing musical instruments to underserved schools and community programs.

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