



Re: [EXTERNAL]Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation - Freedom Middle School Grant and Instrument Logistics

From Sabrina McCombs (Freedom Middle School) <Sabrina_McCombs@dekalbschoolsga.org>

Date Fri 5/15/2026 2:16 PM

To Donald Porter (Dept. Of Grants & Partnerships) <Donald_Porter@dekalbschoolsga.org>; Bridgette Allen (Area - Middle Schools) <Bridgette_Allen@dekalbschoolsga.org>

Todd
Shipley<todd@mhopus.org>
>

Forrest Watkins (Freedom Middle School); Sabrina McCombs (Freedom Middle School)

Norman Sauce (Superintendent's Office); Monica Fogg (Teaching & Learning); Jonathan Goldman (Department Of Communication); Tricia Williams <tricia@mhopus.org>;

+5 others



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Dear Principal McCombs and Dr. Watkins,

Congratulations! I am delighted to share that as a result of **Freedom Middle School's** participation in [Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation's](#) Adopt A School campaign, the school will receive a donation of the following:

- 6 Trumpets
- 6 Clarinets
- 5 Flutes
- 4 Alto Saxophones
- 3 Steel Snare Drums
- 3 Snare Drum Stands
- 1 Tenor Saxophone
- 3 Boxes of Bb Clarinet Reeds (Box of 10 - Strength 2.5)
- 3 Boxes of Alto Saxophone Reeds (Box of 10 - Strength 2.5)
- 2 Boxes of Tenor Saxophone Reeds (Box of 10 - Strength 2.5)

The total retail value of this donation is **\$40,338** and is made possible through generous funding from the Van Halen Family and other generous donors who supported the campaign.

Dr. Watkins, you will soon receive a follow-up email regarding grant agreement instructions and instrument delivery logistics from Cecilia Garcia, Program Associate (cecilia@mhopus.org). In the meantime, when you announce the exciting news to your students, colleagues, or school community, we would love for you to capture that moment!

We would be delighted to receive a quick iPhone video, candid photos, handwritten student notes, or quotes in an email message—anything that documents the excitement of:

- Your class hearing the news that new instruments are on the way!
- A student or ensemble sharing what they are looking forward to most about their new instrument!

- A principal or administrator sharing what new instruments mean to the entire school.

Anything you can conveniently provide will help us show our donors the real impact of their generosity and inspire others to give. You can reply to this email or upload video clips, photos, scans, or notes to our Jotform, linked below.

[Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation Jotform Upload](#)

Thank you for the incredible work you do for your students!

Warmly,

Todd Shipley
Program Director

Todd Shipley, Program Director
615-962-5272 | mhopus.org

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From: Donald Porter (Dept. Of Grants & Partnerships) <Donald_Porter@dekalbschoolsga.org>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2026 11:58 AM
To: Bridgette Allen (Area - Middle Schools) <Bridgette_Allen@dekalbschoolsga.org>
Cc: Sabrina McCombs (Freedom Middle School) <Sabrina_McCombs@dekalbschoolsga.org>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL]Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation - Freedom Middle School Grant and Instrument Logistics

Good morning!

Thank you for these. I'll prepare and submit for legal sufficiency today.

The only thing I still need: What is the estimated total dollar value of this award?

Donnie

Donald B. Porter, Ed.D., Lead Grant Strategist
Department of Grants and Partnerships - DeKalb County School District
1701 Mountain Industrial Boulevard - Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083
678-481-4110
Donald_Porter@dekalbschoolsga.org

From: Bridgette Allen (Area - Middle Schools) <Bridgette_Allen@dekalbschoolsga.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2026 7:23 PM
To: Donald Porter (Dept. Of Grants & Partnerships) <Donald_Porter@dekalbschoolsga.org>
Cc: Sabrina McCombs (Freedom Middle School) <Sabrina_McCombs@dekalbschoolsga.org>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL]Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation - Freedom Middle School Grant and Instrument Logistics

Greetings,

See attached.

BEST REGARDS,
Dr. Bridgette L. Allen, SHRM-CP

AREA SUPERINTENDENT - MIDDLE SCHOOLS

DEKALB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

1701 MOUNTAIN INDUSTRIAL BLVD. | STONE MOUNTAIN, GA 30083

BRIDGETTE_ALLEN@DEKALBSCHOOLSGA.ORG

"Learning, Growing, and Winning Together"The MS Way: **Meet** the needs of all scholars, **Support** each other and all stakeholders, **Work** with intentionality for impact, **Analyze** data to drive continuous improvement, **Yearn** to grow others

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From: Cecilia Garcia <cecilia@mhopus.org>**Sent:** Thursday, May 14, 2026 1:50 PM**To:** Bridgette Allen (Area - Middle Schools) <Bridgette_Allen@dekalbschoolsga.org>**Cc:** Norman Sauce (Superintendent's Office) <Norman_C_Sauce@dekalbschoolsga.org>; Sabrina McCombs (Freedom Middle School)

<Sabrina_McCombs@dekalbschoolsga.org>; Forrest Watkins (Freedom Middle School) <Forrest_Watkins@dekalbschoolsga.org>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL]Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation - Freedom Middle School Grant and Instrument LogisticsYou don't often get email from cecilia@mhopus.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

Attached are the application and agreement as requested. Please let me know if you need anything else.

Cecilia Garcia, Program Associate818-762-4328 | mhopus.orgEnjoy our newsletter [Opus Notes](#)On Thu, May 14, 2026 at 10:30 AM Cecilia Garcia <cecilia@mhopus.org> wrote:

Thank you for letting me know! Could you please provide when the board meeting will occur? I will then add a note to our records to follow up after. If they are in need of a pdf of the agreement or any other information, please also let me know.

Kind regards,

Cecilia Garcia, Program Associate818-762-4328 | mhopus.orgEnjoy our newsletter [Opus Notes](#)On Wed, May 13, 2026 at 4:57 PM Bridgette Allen (Area - Middle Schools) <Bridgette_Allen@dekalbschoolsga.org> wrote:

Greetings,

Thank you for the opportunity to partner with Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation to support our scholars through this instrument donation. Due to the donation amount, we are required to obtain Board approval prior to moving forward with the execution of the grant agreement. Once we have received board approval, we will proceed accordingly.

We appreciate your partnership throughout this process and will keep you informed as updates become available. Thank you again for your support of our school community.

BEST REGARDS,***Dr. Bridgette L. Allen, SHRM-CP*****AREA SUPERINTENDENT - MIDDLE SCHOOLS**

DEKALB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

1701 MOUNTAIN INDUSTRIAL BLVD. | STONE MOUNTAIN, GA 30083

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From: Cecilia Garcia <cecilia@mhopus.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2026 2:47 PM
To: Norman Sauce (Superintendent's Office) <Norman_C_Sauce@dekalbschoolsga.org>; Sabrina McCombs (Freedom Middle School) <Sabrina_McCombs@dekalbschoolsga.org>; Forrest Watkins (Freedom Middle School) <Forrest_Watkins@dekalbschoolsga.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation - Freedom Middle School Grant and Instrument Logistics

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Dear Dr. Sauce, Principal McCombs, and Dr. Watkins,

We at Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation are excited to share the next steps of the instrument donation process with you.

You will all soon receive an email from Adobe Sign with a link to access and e-sign the instrument grant agreement. We ask that teachers and principals ensure they follow their school district's internal procedures for receiving grants and signing grant agreements. If there are any additional steps we need to be aware of, please let us know.

Upon execution of the grant agreement, Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation will order the instruments to be delivered to the school.

Dr. Watkins, in order to ensure that instruments are delivered to the correct address and to prevent delivery attempts during school closures, please reply with responses to the following:

1. Delivery Address:

2. Is there a loading dock? YES or NO

*If **yes**, please provide location specifics in relation to the building and loading dock hours.*

3. Delivery contact person - name and phone number:

4. Please list any upcoming school closure dates over the next 6 months (i.e., holidays or breaks) when there will not be someone at the school site to accept deliveries.

Please note that the Foundation is not able to provide advanced notice of delivery:

5. Can the school accept deliveries during summer break? YES or NO

*If **yes**, please provide when the break begins/ends and the days/hours when the school can accept deliveries. Please include any special instructions.*

Please note that the instruments may arrive in multiple deliveries. Upon receipt, please carefully inspect each instrument. If anything arrives damaged or defective, please save the packing materials for the instrument(s) and notify me immediately. Please be sure to add the instruments to your master inventory list for accountability/tracking purposes.

Thank you all, and please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Kind regards,

Cecilia Garcia, Program Associate
 818-762-4328 | [mhopus.org](mailto:cecilia@mhopus.org)



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