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## **VH1 SAVE THE MUSIC FOUNDATION AND THE SOUND START FOUNDATION TO BESTOW GRANTS TO REVITALIZE PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS MUSIC PROGRAMS**

*Musical instruments, instruction materials provided for Public Schools 26 and 24*

PATERSON – Officials from the VH1 Save The Music and Sound Start Foundations were welcomed by Paterson Public Schools officials today at the Academy of the Fine and Performing Arts (Public School 24) where the foundations announced grants that will revitalize the music programs at the academy and Public School 16.

“While the district has been hiring enthusiastic and effective music teachers in our schools, we know that a school’s music program is limited when it cannot provide instruments to their students,” said Deputy Schools Superintendent Susana Peron. “The generous grants we are receiving today will provide more than 50 musical instruments, plus music technology, method books, music stands and other equipment to support our music programs.”

Among the items provided by the donations to Public School 24:

- For the band: 8 flutes, 11 clarinets, 3 alto saxes, 6 trumpets, 4 trombones, 1 bell kit, 1 snare drum, 1 bass drum, 1 bass drum stand, 1 bass drum beater, 1 cymbal kit.
- For the string ensemble: 18 violins, 6 violas, 4 cellos, 2 basses OR 22 violins, 8 violas, 6 cellos.
- For the mariachi band: 4 guitarrones, 6 vihuelas, 20 guitars, 18 violins, 12 trumpets

Among the items provided by the donations to Public School 16:

- a digital piano, an acoustic guitar, a drum set, xylophones, recorders, percussion instruments, and method books.

Both schools will receive 36 music stands and music stand racks.

Chiho Feindler, senior director of programs and policy for VH1 Save the Music Foundation, said that several elements had led to the donations made today including Superintendent Eileen Shafer’s placing a high priority on music education.

“We are delighted to be in Paterson to deliver the first-ever grants to Paterson Public Schools,” said Feindler, in reference to the donations being made by the VH1 Save The Music and Sound Start foundations.

“We’re focused on music. It’s what we think about,” said Kevin Zarow, vice-president of American sales for the Sound United Company. “To have the opportunity to form Sound Start and partner with VH1 to give away instruments it’s just a beautiful thing.” The Sound Start Foundation is a nonprofit organization affiliated with the Sound United Company, the parent company for audio brands including Denon and Marantz.

# PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



*Preparing All Children for College and Career  
Together We Can*

When the State of New Jersey took over the Paterson Public Schools District in 1991, elementary school music programs were among the first to be cut. A sure sign that the district is on its way to having local control restored is the return of music education to Paterson's public elementary schools. The grants that will be announced tomorrow will be instrumental in achieving that end.

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