



Charleston County School District
Office of Communications
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Media Release

Northwoods Receives Music Grant from Phish's Mockingbird Foundation

Charleston, SC (July 14, 2025) - Northwoods Middle School was the recipient of \$2,000 to support music education from the all-volunteer Mockingbird Foundation, incorporated in 1997 by fans of the band Phish, whose summer tour included North Charleston Coliseum on July 11, 12, and 13, 2025.

This generous donation marks 762 grants nationwide, totaling over \$2.75 million. The [Mockingbird Foundation](#) is sending unsolicited [Tour Grants](#) to a music program in each of the ten cities in which the band is performing, for a total of \$20,000 in unsolicited Tour Grants.

Principal Dr. Keturah G. Planter said [Northwoods Middle School](#) will use the funds for a piano lab.

"I am so excited and deeply grateful for the \$2,000 grant awarded to Northwoods to fund our new piano lab," said Planter. "This opportunity allows us to support our scholars who have expressed a strong interest in learning to play the piano, while also helping to further develop the natural talents we've already seen in so many of our students. It's a meaningful step toward nurturing creativity and musical growth in our school community."

Shelly Goughnour, Assistant Academic Director of Visual and Performing Arts for Charleston County School District, said she is grateful for the support of the Mockingbird Foundation.

"It is thrilling for Northwoods Middle School to receive this recognition," said Goughnour. "This piano lab will open up exciting and new opportunities for our students to explore music and will have a lasting impact on the school."

These grants are part of a long-standing effort to help support music education in the local communities that have welcomed and hosted the Phish community for the band's performances.

The Mockingbird Foundation is an all-volunteer, fan-founded and -managed 501(c)3 nonprofit organization supporting music education for children. A leading grantmaker in music education for children, the Foundation has now made [762 grants in all 50 states, totaling more than \\$2.75M](#). Funds for grants are generated through donations from a loyal base of fans, as well as through [books](#), [recordings](#), [artwork](#), [merchandise](#), and special [events](#). Mockingbird is the leading provider of historical information about Phish and its music, having cultivated intellectual property through [phish.net](#) (and three associated books, so far) since 1994. The

Foundation has been operated entirely by volunteer fans of the band, without any salaries or paid staff, since its inception in 1996.

For more information, please contact the Office of Communications at (843) 937-6303.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally accredited school district committed to providing equitable and quality educational opportunities for all its students. CCSD is the second-largest school system in South Carolina and represents a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves approximately 50,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse portfolio of educational options and specialized programs delivered to the students of CCSD through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools and programs. Rich educational opportunities for students include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; military; dual credit; and many more.