FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MEDIA ALERT – Wednesday, November 4, 2026
Fargo Public School District #1

KENNEDY ELEMENTARY SCHOOLERS TO LEARN FROM, PERFORM WITH GHANAIAN MASTER DRUMMER SOWAH MENSAH

Learners at Kennedy Elementary School are receiving instruction from a Ghanaian master drummer and will share what they have learned with the community at a special concert this Thursday.

WHAT:	Master Drummer Residency
WHEN:	Public Performance, **Thursday, November 5** at 5:30 p.m. School Assembly, **Friday, November 6** at 1:30 p.m.
WHERE:	Gym, Kennedy Elementary School, 4401 42nd Street South, Fargo
CONTACT:	**Dr. Karrie Pederson**, Kennedy principal, pedersk@fargo.k12.nd.us or 701.446.4204 for more information.

This week, Kennedy Elementary School is hosting Ghanaian master drummer, composer, and ethnomusicologist Sowah Mensah for a week-long artist residency. Over the course of 20 hours of instruction from Monday-Friday this week, Mensah is working with every class in kindergarten through fifth grade, teaching the rhythms, songs, and traditions of Ghanaian drumming.

The week of instruction builds toward a free public concert on Thursday in the Kennedy Elementary School gym. Third, fourth, and fifth graders will perform alongside Mensah, including a core ensemble of fifth grade drummers who are rehearsing with him daily this week. The residency will close on Friday with an all-school assembly.

Mensah has taught music in Ghana and Nigeria and has taught at Macalester College and the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn., where he has directed African music ensembles. He leads Sankofa, a Ghanaian folklore and dance ensemble in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro, and has performed with the Ghana National Symphony Orchestra. He regularly leads clinics, workshops and residencies at colleges and elementary and secondary schools across the United States.

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