

## PowerUP Jax Fall 2016 Grant Winner

11. **Shaun Bennett**  
**Ortega Elementary**  
**Subject/Grade: Music Grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>**  
**Project Title: The Steel Drum Project**

### **Summary of Project:**

Caribbean Steel drums connect students to a different style of music that is seldom experienced live in Jacksonville for many of my students. Ortega Elementary has the only Caribbean Steel program in Jacksonville. It has the only steel program in all of North Florida. There truly is a need to develop and nurture this program. The Steel Drum project will help purchase 2 Jumbie Jam student model steel drums and 1 steel pan stand the program at Ortega Elementary School. During this project students will develop skills on these instruments and perform in the local community. They receive formal music training to develop music literacy, performance skills, and instrumental technique on the steel drums. The new stand will be used for a steel pan that was transferred to the school that needs a stand. Funding for instruments is always an issue with a yearly starting budget of zero. The school would not be able to do this without the help of PowerUp Jax. Many of the families at Ortega rely on government assistance. Students would otherwise not be able to afford such instruments. This project will give students in poverty a unique opportunity to explore Caribbean music, while learning how to read, perform and develop a sense of teamwork.

### **How many students will be directly involved? Explain any further impact on other students, teachers, the school as a whole, and/or the community.**

The two Jumbie Jam steel pans for this project will be used both in class and during the after school music club at Ortega. The steel drums will be utilized in grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>. Around 200+ students will be working with the instruments during regular classes. The drums will also be used with the Ortega Music Club after school and during performances in the community.

### **How will the project specifically increase student learning? Be sure to explain the project's connections to existing learning standards. Be clear about what new skills, knowledge, and/or dispositions the students will acquire.**

Students will learn the history of the steel pan, how they are made, and how to play the instruments. These instruments will build on their musical knowledge of pitched percussion instruments. In addition to developing skill in the classroom there is an after school program for students seeking additional enrichment. Ortega Music club meets twice a week and is working on Caribbean folk songs, classical music and holiday tunes on the steel drums. Students in the club will perform twice a year during Ortega Museum Magnet exhibit nights and will perform in various events throughout the community.

### **What is your plan for evaluating the success of your project? What artifacts (photographs, samples of student work, testimonials, etc...) would you use to demonstrate the effectiveness of the project?**

Performance is the best way to evaluate student success in a music class. My students will actually demonstrate their skills on the instruments. They will perform during Ortega's Museum Exhibit night and during other events in the community. The project will be deemed effective, if students give a respectable performance and display learning growth through playing in unison, harmony, working together as a team, while demonstrating appropriate stage and performance etiquette.