

PowerUP Jax Fall 2016 Grant Winner

5. **Donalee Nobles**
Romona Elementary School
Subject/Grade: K-5 Music
Project Title: Creating Music Through Ukuleles

Summary of Project:

Have you ever wanted to play a string instrument before? Ukuleles are wonderful string instruments that are the right size for any size student. With four strings, the chords that are simple to play for any student. Their size can fit into any student's hand and lap. I will be teaching my students to play chord progressions so they can perform at PTA meetings and musicals. A Fifth grade student said, "I would like to play the ukulele to younger grades and sing a favorite book to them". With ukuleles, they would be able to do just that, create their own music. Without instruments like ukuleles for my students, they will not be able to compose their own masterpieces. It's all about being creative, and ukuleles will allow students to show their own creativity.

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

We currently have about 300 3rd - 5th grade students, who will be using the ukuleles. I plan to have 1st and 2nd grade students experimenting on the ukuleles towards the 3rd quarter of the year. We will be playing them for PTA meetings, so I hope this will encourage parents to come to see their student perform and be more involved with their child's education. I know the teachers will encourage students to do their best and keep practicing. If a teacher plays, I hope they will come play with their students.

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.

Playing the ukulele is great for hand-eye coordination. It also develops hand motor skills. Many of the standards in music will be applied to playing the ukulele. MU.5.C requires students to use critical thinking skills to appreciate, create, and critique music. Students will discover an appreciation for folk music, a genre that uses ukuleles. Students will learn chord progressions to create their own pieces of music, using problem-solving and decision making skills. Students will need patience to practice, refine, and publish their compositions. Related to writing, my students will gain a creative imagination that will help them write lyrics or poems they can perform for the class, the school, or 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?

Performances are a great way to evaluate student success. Not all students are eager to perform in front of a large audience, though. I plan to have rubrics for weekly progress, performances in the classroom, and when comfortable, performance in front of an audience. I will also have students give testimonials for what they have learned about the ukulele, how it has helped them academically, and personally.