



Redwood City Education Foundation  
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### **Instrumental Music Program is eliminated in Redwood City School District**

*Parents organize to raise \$150,000 to reinstate beloved program*

*REDWOOD CITY, CA – May 13, 2011 – All three music teaching positions have been eliminated from Redwood City School District's 2011-12 school year. The reluctant vote by the Board of Trustees on Wednesday night, May 11, effectively silences instrumental music for nearly 800 students in grades 6 through 8. Most keenly affected are the district's low-income students, estimated at about 75 percent of program participants, for whom music is often the one bright spot in their day as well as an enhancer of academic, cognitive, and social development skills.*

*Shell-shocked parents are asking all music parents and community members to turn this tragedy around by making donations to the Redwood City Education Foundation (RCEF) at Monday's Districtwide Music Festival, to be held in Carrington Hall at Sequoia High School at 6:30 p.m., or online at [www.rcef.org/music](http://www.rcef.org/music). Last year the RCEF provided the funds to reinstate one of the two music teachers who were laid off.*

*Jackie Killen, parent of a seventh grade student, said "Music is the highlight of my son's middle school experience. Redwood City residents simply must rally to reinstate the instrumental music program. I would be terribly disappointed in a community that didn't support the arts as a key component of a child's education. There's no sign from Sacramento that the Governor will be able to make good on his promise to spare education from upcoming budget cuts. And this community has three times refused to vote for a parcel tax. The only thing we have going for us is the Redwood City Education Foundation and the donations they bring in."*

## *Instrumental Music - 2*

*A District 6th grader remarked "This is horrible. Without music next year, I don't know how I will make it through seventh grade.*

*"Because of music class I learned how to play the trombone. Without class next year, how will I be ready to play in a high school band," adds a 7th Grade music student.*

*On May 28, at Woodside High School (WHS), the RCEF is sponsoring the second annual Groovin' in the Grove Benefit Concert starting at 1:00 p.m. Afternoon performances will showcase young local bands, and the evening concert, which starts at 6:30, will feature the American roots and blues band, The Jake Jacobs Group, and rock and roll band High 'n Tight, who are bringing a light show to the WHS Performing Arts Center. All groups are donating their performances, and all proceeds from this concert will go the Save Our School Music campaign ([www.rcef.org/groovin](http://www.rcef.org/groovin)).*

*In July, the RCEF is co-sponsoring, with the Redwood City Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department, the traditional Fourth of July Parade Run. All proceeds will benefit Save Our School Music.*

*The nonprofit, all-volunteer Redwood City Education Foundation (RCEF) has been partnering for more than 25 years with parents, community members, local businesses, private and public agencies, corporations, and foundations to enrich educational opportunities for the 9,200 students in the economically and culturally diverse Redwood City School District. The RCEF counts among its many supporters Oracle, Wells Fargo, Google, Kaiser Permanente, Mills-Peninsula Health Services, the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, Redwood City Civic Cultural Commission, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, and Westly Foundation. For more information, visit [www.rcef.org](http://www.rcef.org).*

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