

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Fabulous Flutes Made Possible by DEF



Pictured Above Left To Right: First Flight Middle and High School C Breeze Flute Choir members Tori Eaton and Chandler Jernigan. Flute Choir members not pictured are Addie Jones, Caroline Lowcher, Liah McPherson, and Claire Thomas.

Directed by Suzanne Blackstock and Sam Ballard, the “C Breeze Flute Choir” is a new opportunity for students this school year and it’s off to a beautiful sounding start.

FFMS Social Studies teacher Suzanne Blackstock recently applied for and received a grant from the Dare Education Foundation to purchase a bass flute needed to make the flute ensemble complete.

The goal of the flute choir is to expand students’ musical knowledge and skills while developing 21st Century Skills through small group participation. Playing in a small musical ensemble requires dedication and personal responsibility in addition to honed listening skills and sensitivity to other players. Further, most of their music has one player per part, and each part is slightly different than the others, so students are required to play in sync with the team for group success.

“The way it works,” shared Mrs. Blackstock, “is that flute choir members take turns playing the different flutes. So far we've had two public performances, Hotline's Festival of Trees and the FFMS holiday concert in December. We're also planning on playing at the FFMS spring concert.”

The opportunity, made possible by a grant from the Dare Education Foundation, has opened up a world of new experiences for current and future flute choir members. C Breeze member Liah McPherson was able to attend the recent Hampton Roads Flute Faire with her parents and was happy to be exposed to the world of flutes in such a dynamic way.

Choir Directors Blackstock and Ballard hope that C Breeze will be able to perform at the Hampton Roads Flute Faire next year, providing yet another opportunity for student experiences.

The C Breeze Flute Choir is open to new members. Interested students should contact Suzanne Blackstock at First Flight Middle School at 441-8888 for more information.

DEF's 21st Century Skills Grants encourage students to learn by doing, work with one another, and become more socially responsible. Rote memorization is OUT. Thinking, planning, collaborating, communicating, and being creative are IN. For more information about DEF's 21st Century Skills Grants, visit www.dareeducationfoundation.org or call the foundation office at 255-5545.

The Dare Education Foundation is an IRS-qualified non-profit organization that raises funds to help every student and every teacher in every public school in Dare County. DEF is funded by private donations large and small, grants, sponsorships, and special events. Funds are used to advance teacher training, create access to new educational opportunities for students, and provide support for innovative programs in our schools. DEF's efforts in putting "Schools First" enrich education for all our students and encourage community involvement in education, which provides the foundation for a strong and vibrant quality of life in Dare County.