

# HEARTS Grant Funds Music Lessons

The first annual Summer Music Program, sponsored by HEARTS (Helping Enrich the ARTS in Port Washington), has proven to be a great success in the Port Washington School District. Ms. Elizabeth Andrew, band teacher at Sousa and Manorhaven elementary schools, designed a program that focuses on giving English Language Learners entering fourth grade a jumpstart on the band instrument they have chosen for the fall. Ms. Andrew explained that throughout this past school year, she met with Ms. Sheri Suzzan, director of creative arts, and Ms. Shirley Cepero, director of ESL, to come up with an action plan.

With the encouragement of Ms. Suzzan and Ms. Cepero, Ms. Andrew wrote a grant that was completely funded by HEARTS, the Port Washington arts advocacy group.

The Summer Music Program is a first step toward a larger vision. Ms. Andrew notes, "The end goal is to have a large summer band program open to all students of various ages and abilities. It's a challenge in this difficult economy to start something big, so I'm starting small and hoping both the funding and participation will grow each summer."

This summer, seven students were selected to receive instruction from Ms. Andrew for an hour and a half every day for two weeks. Ms. Andrew stated that, "It's intense to meet every day for two weeks. I keep telling the students how successful they will feel in September when they come to their lessons with confidence. These students are not only learning to play an instrument, they will be leaders among their peers."

For more information on HEARTS, visit: [www.heartspw.org](http://www.heartspw.org).



Ms. Elizabeth Andrew with students of the Summer Music Program.