

Harmonizing Community and Education: Englewood Schools/K4CO Radio Partnership

Englewood Schools

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The overarching goal between Englewood Schools and K4CO Radio was to build and strengthen the community partnership that directly supports the schools, their students, and particularly the thriving music programs. As the musical programs continue to grow, a need has emerged for resources like musical instruments for students. Recognizing this, Englewood Schools embarked on a unique collaboration with K4CO Radio to not only increase awareness about the district's music initiatives and their needs but also to promote a targeted musical instrument donation drive. Beyond instrument acquisition, a significant objective was to provide the high school students enrolled in digital audio recording studio classes with an invaluable opportunity: to have their original music, created in the classroom, played live on air, offering them a taste of real-world broadcasting.

The district's Family, School, and Community Liaison played an important role, establishing a crucial relationship with K4CO Radio. This partnership enabled Englewood to secure a grant from the City of Englewood, specifically for radio airtime to promote the musical instrument drive. Music teachers from across the district were instrumental, providing detailed lists of their programs' needs, guiding the public on how best to support the students. To further amplify the message, the band teacher from Englewood High School and the district's Family, School, and Community Liaison appeared on K4CO Radio and the television program "Great Day Colorado" alongside K4CO representatives, promoting the district's music programs and highlighting their specific needs. In addition, the music teacher at Colorado's Finest High School of Choice, the alternative high school, worked with his digital audio recording class to create music files for on-air play of their own music. These students also participated in live interviews, discussing the music they produced on their school campus, which was then broadcast live.



This relationship, initiated when K4CO Radio personnel reached out to the Family, School, and Community Liaison through the Englewood Chamber of Commerce, proved profoundly impactful. The vital backing of the City of Englewood grant, K4CO, and Englewood Schools effectively promoted the instrument drive across radio and television platforms. This provided invaluable real-world experience for students interested in the arts, significantly engaged students who might rely on their music classes to stay connected with school, and allowed them to showcase their talents to a broad audience.

The program's success was evaluated through both qualitative and quantitative measures. Staff gathered direct feedback from teachers and students. Quantitatively, they tracked the success of the instrument

donation drive, measuring how many instruments they were able to acquire and distribute. Overall, an impressive total of 19 instruments, ranging from guitars to pianos, were successfully donated. However, implementation was not without its challenges. Logistical hurdles arose in coordinating student and staff appearances on the radio and for filming, necessitating careful collection of permission slips and meticulous scheduling to align both the radio station's broadcast times with student and teacher availability. Another significant challenge on the musical instrument donation drive side was the logistics of transporting and distributing the donated instruments to the various schools efficiently.

For anyone considering replicating this practice, the advice is to look actively within your own community for potential partners. You'll often discover numerous individuals and organizations eager to support students, particularly those with a genuine passion for various topics.