

Boone Meadow's Transparent Piano Project
FORUM Foundation Educator Grant Application
by Will Doublestein, 8/29/25

What will you use the funds for? Please include an itemized list

As the music teacher at Boone Meadow Elementary, I am continually seeking out ways to encourage discovery, wonder, beauty and creativity in the lives of my students. Recently I've been inspired by transparent pianos, like the Edelweiss Klavier upright piano that Mark Rober used in his Rush E YouTube video linking science, engineering, art and music. The Edelweiss Klavier is a transparent piano, built out of clear acrylic rather than wood, that clearly shows all the mechanisms, hammers, dampers, strings, and levers that make a piano work. Seeing what is usually hidden through the transparent instrument brings a beauty that is truly captivating, and I would absolutely love to bring one to my school and share it with my students.

UNFORTUNATELY after looking it up I discovered that the Edelweiss Klavier costs \$60,000...

Undeterred, I began brainstorming other options, and I had the idea to retrofit the upright piano we already have with four custom cut transparent panels. The piano's lid, upper panel, key cover, and lower panel could all be replaced with clear acrylic and have no effect on the structure or playability of the piano itself. Those pieces would offer a window into the inside of the piano, and by adding LED lighting we could turn an otherwise standard piano into a visually striking educational tool, an instrument that fosters curiosity at its highest level through interactive learning.

Boone Meadow is a place where students are encouraged to share their learning, and we invite students who take piano lessons to play for their peers during morning arrival. This practice fills our halls with music, and it builds so much confidence in our young performers. I can only imagine their excitement if one day our piano were transparent, and I truly believe that the instrument would become an unforgettable part of their elementary education.

Thank you to the FORUM Foundation for considering this proposal and supporting projects like these.

Material List

4'x8' sheet of .354" acrylic- cut by the manufacturer: \$273.42
4'x8' sheet of .472 acrylic- cut by the manufacturer: \$384.45
5Pcs countersink drill bit set: \$7.99
Isopropyl alcohol: \$9.99
Bar clamps, 4 pack: \$26.99

Weld-on #4 acrylic cement: \$18.99
Novus plastic polish pack: \$20.07
10 inch table saw blade for plastic, 80 tooth: \$27.99
400, 600, 800 grit wet dry sandpaper: \$8.99
Scotch general purpose masking tape: \$4.98
#8-32 machine screws, washers, and bolts: <\$4.00
Govee GRBIC strip light Pro 2, 16.4ft: \$99.99
Sales tax (7%): \$62.15

Total: \$950.00

Link to this project's inspiration, the Edelweiss Klavier:
https://www.edelweisspianos.com/mark-robers-talking-piano-featuring-the-edelweiss-transparent-klavier-as-chopstix/?srsltid=AfmBOop60gLz5eu0MV_vBclbhP5dPRvxiuk8dV2PQq7TV3JOZkp3v3CO

Please tell us what you love most about teaching

Teaching combines my two passions, music and education, but the thing I love most about teaching is the kids! I have always been a kid at heart, and I can certainly relate to the kindergarten through fourth graders I get to see every day. I find their curiosity and enthusiasm to be contagious, and I learn a lot just being around them. Having the opportunity to participate in a child's learning brings me so much joy!

As an elementary school music teacher I am constantly challenged to create highly engaging and enjoyable lessons for a wide spectrum of diverse learners. I do my best to build relationships and tap into student interests, helping them feel connected and safe. This builds a lot of trust, and it leads to a purpose far more important than learning notes on an instruments or words to a song. My hope is that my teaching would make a difference in the lives of my students. I hope that the lessons I create and the experiences I lead would inspire them to believe in themselves and strive for excellence in everything they do. Art and beauty is out there, and I am honored to help them find it.