

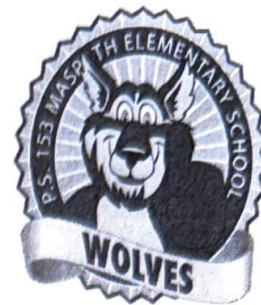
# Public School 153

## Maspeth Elementary School

60-02 60<sup>th</sup> Lane, Maspeth, New York 11378

Tel. 718-821-7850 Fax 718-386-7392

<https://www.ps153online.org/>



David Berkowitz, **Principal**

Jilian Johnson, **Assistant Principal**  
Matthew Carneiro, **Assistant Principal**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am an elementary music teacher at PS 153 in Maspeth, Queens, New York. My dream has always been to have a band program that inspires students to become life-long learners of music. Even though my school has instruments, they have been sitting around for over ten years in a state of disrepair. I inventoried over 110 instruments and set aside 10 flutes, 12 clarinets, 8 saxophones, 10 trumpets, 10 trombones and 5 euphoniums to be used for the start of the instrumental program.

I currently have 30 students in my band. When they come in every week, they look forward to playing. They tell me that they cannot wait for next week with smiles on their faces. With that being said, it breaks my heart when their instruments literally fall apart while they are playing, or they struggle to create a good sound when the instrument is holding them back. There have been numerous class periods where I have to spend 10 or more minutes trying to diagnose what is wrong with someone's instrument and try to fix it. That takes away from the playing time that the students get and I only see them once a week. If I had good-working instruments, the students could have 30 - 40 minutes of playing time, as opposed to the 20 minutes that they usually get. PS 153 is a Title 1 school, so I cannot just send out the instruments when there is not much money allotted for the music budget.

This is where your organization can help. I am requesting that Harmony 4 All find someone who can repair the instruments properly. The instruments themselves are of good quality and if fixed and maintained accordingly, they should be able to last students for 2 or 3 years. That would benefit not only the current students, but the upcoming ones as well. It would save the school money in the long run and engage the students in the music. They would have less obstacles to overcome and it would be much easier for them to be successful. Imagine the smiles that stay on their faces when they feel how much they can accomplish with an instrument in perfect working condition!

To conclude, I have many instruments in a sorry state that if Harmony 4 All were to fix, it would have a huge impact on the students at a Title 1 school for years. As the only source of music education for the area, the students would be able to have a quality instrument that they can achieve success on. I want to be able to plant the seeds for future musicians that can grow into life-long learners of music.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anthony Izzo", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Anthony Izzo

February 28, 2025