

Missouri Symphony Society and Columbia Public Schools Fine Arts

Columbia Public Schools Fine Arts and the Missouri Symphony Society are celebrating a 15-year partnership. This year, the partnership expanded to allow all CPS third-graders to see a symphony performance of “Peter and the Wolf” at the Missouri Theatre. Prior to the field trip, Missouri Symphony Maestro Kirk Trevor visited each elementary school to teach students about the symphony, as well as various orchestral instruments.

“The field trip generated a positive response and was a well-organized, quality experience. The presentation was thoughtful and engaging and kept students’ attention,” CPS Fine Arts Director James Melton said. “Nothing recreates the atmosphere of sitting in a theater and watching a symphony performance. Now the students can talk about instruments in class and all have a common experience seeing that instrument being played.”

The experience embodies CPS’ belief system of AEO—Achievement, Enrichment and Opportunity.

“AEO in action consistently implements quality experiences in a variety of ways,” Melton said. “AEO and Partners in Education provides our students with enriching opportunities by giving students access to resources in Columbia.”