

RITE NOW @ ROP



Music, Mentorship, and Milestones

This summer, youth at the Tampa Residential Youth Academy explored the power of music through a partnership with The Florida Orchestra. The program, led by Dr. Bethany Thompson, introduced students to the violin and cello, offering weekly hands-on instruction and opportunities to learn directly from professional musicians. The experience extended far beyond technique as students connected with mentors from the orchestra who provided encouragement, structure, and inspiration each week.

After weeks of practice and personal growth, the students' hard work culminated in two heartwarming public concerts. The first was held at The Estates at Carpenters, a local retirement community, where youth shared their music with residents. The second performance took place at the Tampa Residential Youth Academy, where students showcased their new skills for their peers and staff. These concerts were a celebration of music and a testament to each student's progress in confidence, discipline, and teamwork.

The program not only introduced youth to the joy of learning an instrument, but also highlighted how creative partnerships can open doors to growth and healing. The Florida Orchestra's involvement helped create a safe, engaging space for students to challenge themselves and discover new talents. The entire Tampa Residential community is proud of their achievements and grateful for the dedication of Dr. Thompson and The Florida Orchestra team for helping us improve the lives of youth in Florida.