

Program Profile

Lavelle Beatboxing Program Draws the Interest of Slate.com

They've got the BEAT at Lavelle School for the Blind.

And they've had it for the past five years, thanks to a couple of professional musicians, an open-minded school administration and some eager and, as it turns out, very talented students.

BEAT Rockers, a program delivered by two New York City musicians and DJs each Wednesday during the school year, caught the eye of a Slate.com writer, who featured the students and their teachers in a 2,000-word article in October. It's accessible [here](#).

“BEAT Rockers is one of four Hip Hop programs within B.E.A.T. NYC,” according to an excerpt in the story by Mikaela Conley. “The others teach students how to produce music (BEAT Makers), how to write and perform poetry and rap (BEAT Rhymers) and how to break dance (BEAT Breakers).”

The article describes a typical Wednesday morning, where sometimes-shy students are invited and encouraged to join in, under the instruction of James Kim, the executive director and co-founder of B.E.A.T. (Bridging Education and Art Together), and Taylor McFerrin – a producer, composer, pianist, DJ and live musician, according to the article.

“Music is important for people who are blind and visually impaired because it brings joy, but they feel it so deeply and they hear it so deeply,” Scott Diamond, Lavelle music director, told Slate. He said “music has been directly a part of helping these kids transform, from shy students to assertive young adults.”

