

CASE STUDY #1

IS 229 - Roland Patterson Middle School

Morris Heights, Bronx

Sonic Spark Ensembles AND Sonic Spark Lab

Summary: ACO Teaching Artists inspire high achievement and a strong incentive for attendance, among a historically transient student community, with a large population of recent arrivals.

From the Principal, Vernon Johnson:

*"I cannot be happy enough for all that this organization has done. This organization supported us in person and remotely when many others did not. The open communication with Mr. James specifically makes working with ACO feel like true partners in this service. I am thankful for the artistry my scholars are exposed to along with the professionalism of all the teaching artists... **Our scholars love the program.** I highly recommend [ACO], and I am excited to continue this great partnership for many years to come.*

Outcomes:

- In less than a year these middle school students coalesced into a high achieving ensemble, creating their own songs based on the musical traditions of their individual communities, and performing, self-directed, for their peers and special events
- Sonic Spark programs have become a powerful tool for enrollment and parent support
- The success of Sonic Spark Ensembles at IS 229 has led to the addition of Sonic Spark Lab for the current year



IS229 ACO Sonic Spark Ensembles 2018, Photo by Kevin James

