Mr. Brandt has never taken his eye off what was truly important, the students. In a recent newspaper article he was quoted as saying, “My biggest joy in all of this is seeing the number of students who have attended Vantage who have made real successes of themselves—especially those who hadn’t done very well in school before coming here.”

Though Mr. Brandt officially stepped down as superintendent on July 1, 2001, he remains at Vantage as Special Projects Coordinator ensuring a smooth transition for the new superintendent.

Mr. Speaker, year after year professionals such as Mr. Brandt dedicate their lives to the future of America. There is no more important or challenging job than that of our nation’s educators. At this time, I ask my colleagues of the 107th Congress to join me in saluting Mr. Brandt and all that he has done for the youth of Ohio.

IN HONOR OF NEW YORK'S SCHOOL OF STRINGS

HON. JERROLD NADLER
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 6, 2001

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor New York’s School for Strings on its 30th Anniversary. The School for Strings, which annually trains approximately 300 students and thirty teachers of violin, cello, and piano, is one of the oldest and most distinguished Suzuki programs in the United States. The school’s founder and director, Miss Louise Behrend, was one of the first musicians and teachers to bring the Suzuki approach to the United States, and the success of the program today is evidence of her persistence and the school’s excellence.

In its first thirty years, the School for Strings has enriched the lives of over one thousand families, teaching many the skills needed to earn placement in some of the finest graduate programs and orchestras in the country. Former School for Strings students can be heard in the orchestras of the Metropolitan Opera, the Boston Symphony, the Chicago Symphony, and numerous other world-class groups, and at the music conservations of such distinguished schools as Juilliard, Eastman, Curtis, Peabody, and Oberlin. Equally prominent is the school’s Teacher Training Program, which has graduated more than 400 qualified Suzuki teachers who bring their knowledge of music to many eager minds around the country.

The School for Strings has also added music into the lives of many underprivileged children through its Start-Up Program. The Start-Up Program pairs children with SFS teacher trainees at reduced rates. After three years, many of the students continue the Suzuki Program with scholarship assistance for the school. For the past five years, the School for Strings has offered an after-school Suzuki program at PS 116 with lessons three times a week in violin and cello for elementary school-age students.

The School for Strings, in its first 30 years, has brought to many the lifelong gift of being able to make music, and the accompanying discipline, concentration, and intellectual stimulation. These fortunate students will be tomorrow’s orchestra musicians, talented amateurs and music lovers. On June 16th, 2001, twelve hundred of these former students gathered to fill Carnegie Hall with music, a celebration of the tremendous contribution the school has made to New York City and communities around the country. Congratulations to the School for Strings on 30 years of musical excellence, and I look forward to 30 more years of beautiful music!