

Harold L. Richards High School

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Dear HLR band student and parent:

February is the busy month of performances for the HLR band and HLR jazz band. I am writing to you to let you know what the performance dates are and, as always, invite you to attend.

1. **Wednesday, February 20th** is the winter concert of the HLR band and jazz ensemble in the new PAC at Richards. The concert will begin at 7:30pm. Admission is **free**, and we hope to have another raffle basket to give away.
2. **Saturday, February 23rd the HLR concert Band will participate at the Sandburg HS Concert Band Festival.** The specific details are listed below:

1. Students need to arrive at HLR by 7:30am
2. Change into concert wear and depart for Sandburg 8:15am
3. Arrive at Sandburg HS by 8:45am
4. Warmup 9:20am
5. Performance at 10:00am with clinic right after performance
6. Depart for home at 11:15am
7. Once back at school, change out of concert wear and go home

I will be looking for parent help on February 20th and February 23rd. More information will come out later this week.

There are a couple of other honors performances I would like to bring to your attention.

1. This will be the last semester of the Pilgrim Faith Ensemble that performs three times during the second semester. I have been doing this for over 13 years. The sign-up sheet is in the front of the band room. Dates are February 10th, March 10th, and April 21st. We rehearse at 8:30am at Pilgrim Faith Church (9411 51st Ave, Oak Lawn) on each of those Sundays and then perform at the 9:30 service. I write all the arrangements.
2. I am offering students an opportunity to play Chamber Music (solos and small ensembles) on Wednesday, April 10th. We will perform in the HLR PAC. Students can sign-up for this event in the band room.
3. Since this is my last semester of teaching, I would like to do something special. This Easter, April 21st, I am putting together an ensemble to play the *Hallelujah Chorus* at Pilgrim Faith Church. There will be **one rehearsal on the Saturday before Easter, April 20th, from 11:00am to 12noon**. Call time will be 8:30am on Easter Sunday. Students will be done around 10:30am. We did this about 14 years ago and I would like, with your help, to do it one more time. The music will be rehearsed during regular rehearsal time at school in early April. Again, I will put up a sign-up sheet on the white board.

One other event I would like to highlight is the **Final Concert (Spring concert)** that I will conduct. This Concert is on **Sunday, May 19th at 3:00pm**. I am reaching out to alumni and others to give them an opportunity to play in the new Performing Arts Center since they never got the opportunity. There will also be a reception afterwards so I can thank you all for the 24 wonderful years that I have had the great pleasure of being the band director at Richards High School.

I will end this note by saying thank you, students and parents, for making this a great job to have. I will always remember the wonderful times here at Richards High School. I look forward to 2nd semester and the performances that will take place.

Charles Martin