

PRINCE Leadership MONTHLY



December, 2017

Competitions, Festivals, and Master Classes

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Fine Arts Director

Our band and performing arts students frequently participate in competitions, festivals, honor bands, honor choruses, and master classes. Recently, we had six band students who traveled to Valdosta State University to participate in the Georgia Association of Jazz Educators State Jazz Clinic. Five of our middle and high school performing arts students participated in the Georgia Music Educators District Honor Chorus at Brenau University from November 17-18. The cast and crew of *Still Life with Iris* competed in the Georgia High School Association One Act Play competition at Riverside Military Academy at the end of October and placed third in the region. On November 15th Dr. Noel Tredinnick, music director at All Souls Church in London, England, held a master class for our high school performing arts students.

Some of our band students participated in the Young Harris College Tri-State Middle School Honor Band, and other band students are preparing for district and state auditions. Our high school performing arts students are preparing for GHSA Literary Meet, and Thespian Society competitions in February, and the band will perform in ACSI and GMEA performance evaluations in the early spring. The cast and crew of *Seussical* will be evaluated by a panel of judges for the Shuler Awards, which are the high school musical



theatre awards.

Why do our students participate in these competitions, performance evaluations and master classes? These opportunities assist our students and ensembles in setting goals. When our students have goals, their individual practices and classroom rehearsals are more focused, and students are motivated to work towards excel-

lence. Competitions, performance evaluations, and master classes reveal our strengths and weaknesses. Through our own constructive critique and curriculum standards, we are constantly evaluating our progress. Adjudicators and clinicians will often reiterate what we have been teaching, but perhaps teach the skill or explain the principle more clearly so students can grasp the concept. Our students form relationships with students from other schools and become a part of the larger fine arts community. As a Christian school, our students represent Christ constantly—including our co-curricular activities. Our students discover the joy of creating music and art together. The thrill of creating beauty in an ephemeral and excellent manner is an experience that students will remember the rest of their lives.

The fine arts faculty would like to commend our students on their diligence in preparing for competitions, festivals, and other similar opportunities. We appreciate the support of our fine arts parents who encourage our students and assist in providing the resources for these opportunities. The fine arts faculty would like to express our gratitude to our school administration and teachers for supporting and encouraging our students as they participate in these events.