



NEWS RELEASE

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GWYNN PARK HS INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM PREPARES STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE AND CAREERS



BRANDYWINE – Students in the Gwynn Park High School Instrument Music Program are busy this fall with opportunities that will prepare them for college-level performance standards and careers in the performing arts field.

Under the direction of William L. Lake Jr., the students are participating in more college-level performances. This month, the Marching Band and Poms Dance Team participated in the University of Maryland's Massed Bands Day, joining over 700 high school band members, color guards and dance teams in performing with UM and Towson University. The marching band was then featured during halftime at the Howard University-Georgetown University game on Oct. 15 in a show that celebrated the dedication of the Martin Luther King Jr. monument

and the tenth anniversary of 9/11.

"I believe it is imperative for our students to take part in college and professional career experiences," Lake said. "These opportunities help build their confidence, as well as their skills in the performing arts."

On Thursday, the Concert Band will perform during the UM Wind Ensemble October Concert at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. The concert starts at 8 p.m. Admission is free. Selections will include Michael Sweeney's "Earthdance" and a salute to the armed forces. The concert band will join the UM Wind Ensemble in a performance of Erich Whitacre's "October" and the "Rough Rider's March" by composer Karl L. King.

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About PGCPS: Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), one of the nation's 25 largest school districts, has 198 schools, approximately 125,000 students and nearly 18,000 employees. With an annual budget of \$1.6 billion, the district serves a diverse student population from urban, suburban and rural communities. PGCPS is nationally recognized for its innovative programs and initiatives, including the expansion of Advanced Placement courses and partnerships with businesses and institutions of higher learning.

Prince George's County Board of Education