

The State of the Arts in Lake Travis ISD

Lake Travis ISD Board of Trustees Meeting

May 20, 2014

Charles Aguillon, Director of Fine Arts



What makes the arts a vital part of education in LTISD?

- Our district is characterized by high achieving and academically gifted students who perform exemplary and are often recognized at a national level.
- The arts provide a unique challenge to these students by providing them opportunities to extend themselves in areas that do not always come easy to them.
- A majority of the National Merit Scholars and the students at the top of graduating classes are long-term students in the arts.

"The year of many firsts"

- First appearance by the *Convocation Orchestra and Chorus*
- First time LTHS Art students (2) have placed nationally and received the prestigious Silver Key award from Scholastic Art in New York City
- First time our Cavalier Band was featured in a nationally televised performance – *Good Morning America*
- First time recording a CD featuring the LT Fiddlers
- First appearance at UIL by a full orchestra from LTHS
- First time any individual student received TWO Distinguished Gold Seals at the Visual Arts Scholastic Event
- First 4 year Texas Music All-State Member (only 46)



A year of accomplishments

- All UIL eligible music groups participated in their respective contests:
 - 100% of our **LTHS Bands** received the UIL Sweepstakes award
 - 100% of our **MS Orchestra** Varsity groups received the UIL Sweepstakes Award
 - 100% of our **Varsity LTHS & Middle School Treble Choirs** received the UIL Sweepstakes Award
 - 100% of our **Non-varsity Middle School Bands** received the UIL Sweepstakes Awards
 - 100% of our **MS Varsity and Non-Varsity bands** received a Superior rating in Sightreading
 - Over 60 music students qualified for the UIL Texas State Solo & Ensemble Contest



A year of accomplishments

- The LTHS One Act Play advanced in UIL competition for the 2nd time in Class 5A
- Our LTHS Technical Crew won Best Technical Crew at the UIL One Act Play Zone Contest
- 28 students advanced to the State *Visual Arts and Scholastic Event* (VASE)
 - A record number of 8 received Distinguished Gold Seals (highest honor possible)
 - 17 received Exemplary Medallions
 - 8 received Superior ratings



A year of accomplishments

- Our Cavalette Dance Team received numerous Sweepstakes awards at several contests this year
- Our Classroom Dance students received a Superior rating as part of the *Dance Educators Assessment of Learning* (DEAL)
- **In addition, our Fine Arts students continue to perform at an exemplary level at many other individual contests too numerous to share in this presentation.**

What next?

- This fall we begin piloting lessons in High School Theatre and Dance as part of the new *Arts and Digital Literacy* initiative which will result in four new High School digital learning courses (Art, Music, Theatre, and Dance) for Fine Arts graduation credit in 2015.
- We will begin planning for better Fine Arts curriculum alignment K-12 to ensure our students are receiving the best possible education. This will include a look at class sizes and resources available.
- The Lake Travis Performing Arts Center will be rebranded as a venue for the community as well as for school events.



What next?

- Continue to develop partnerships that will benefit our staff, students, and community while bringing LTISD into a leadership role in the greater arts community around the state and the nation:
 - University of Texas at Austin College of Fine Arts
 - Texas Cultural Trust
 - Center for Educator Development in Fine Arts
 - Austin Symphony
 - Ballet Austin
 - Bee Cave Arts Foundation
 - National Association for Music Merchants

