



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

City Council Issues Proclamation to Support Music Education in Schools

Hazelwood, Mo., (Mar. 19, 2010) – In an effort to show support for music education in local schools and for THE POWER OF SONG concert on March 25, the City Council issued a proclamation declaring March 25, 2010, as “Music in Our Schools Day” in Hazelwood. Mayor Matthew Robinson presented the proclamation to Hazelwood East High School choral director Robert A. Swingler at a recent Council meeting.

Since March is traditionally “Music in our Schools” month throughout the United States, Swingler is organizing a premiere presentation of THE POWER OF SONG, scheduled for March 25 at 7 p.m. in the gymnasium at Hazelwood East High School. The program will feature performances by nearly 500 students representing six elementary schools, two middle schools and one high school in the Hazelwood School District, (HSD). They will be demonstrating their musical abilities through song, dance and instrumentation. Also, student essays giving answers to the question of, “How music has changed my life,” will be interspersed with the songs during the entire program.

Admission is free and open to the public. Event sponsors underwriting the cost of this production include Schnuck’s, McDonald’s, and the owners of Countryside Apartments. Anthony Slaughter, a 2003 graduate of Hazelwood East High School and current KSDK-TV NewsChannel 5 meteorologist, will be the program emcee.

“Music education is a vital part of the public education system. Sadly, it is one of the first programs to be cut when budgets are difficult to balance or areas need to be downsized,” said Robert A. Swingler, a 2006 HSD Teacher of the Year and one of six finalists in the 2006-2007 Missouri Teacher of the Year Program. Swingler has been a choral director and vocal music instructor at Hazelwood East High School since 2001.

The Marching Wildcats of Hazelwood West High School has carried on a proud tradition of musical excellence in the City of Hazelwood. Recently, Bowl Games of America invited the group to participate as featured performers during the half-time show at the 2011 Valero Alamo Bowl in San Antonio. This annual football game features a match-up between college teams of the Big 10 and Big 12 NCAA conferences.

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City Council Issues Proclamation Supporting Music in Schools, Add One

Under band director Aaron Jackson's leadership, the Marching Wildcats have received two invitations to perform at major Bowl events within a short time period. The other opportunity occurred in 2008 when they were selected to perform at the Gator Bowl on New Year's Day. To demonstrate the City's pride for having an exceptional high school marching band, the Hazelwood City Council issued a proclamation praising the students for their superior performances at several band competitions. Plus, the Marching Wildcats add to the festivities of Hazelwood's annual Harvestfest event by performing in the citywide parade.

The Marching Wildcats plan to host several fundraisers to help pay the hotel and transportation costs of each band member. Currently, there are more than 100 students in the band. Those interested in making a donation should contact Gretchen Bangert of the Marching Wildcats Booster Organization at (314) 518-7537. In addition, contributions can be mailed to P.O. Box 4149, Hazelwood, MO 63042.

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Hazelwood City Council Issues Proclamation Supporting Music Education in Schools – (Pictured left to right) Hazelwood School District choral director Robert Swingler receives a proclamation from Mayor Matthew Robinson declaring March 25, 2010, as Music In Our Schools Day.