

# Harvey Public Schools District 152

## Community Education Department

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **THE AWARD-WINNING GWENDOLYN BROOKS MIDDLE SCHOOL JAZZ BAND PERFORMS FOR 10,000 PARTICIPANTS AT THE A.S.C.D. CONFERENCE.**

**Harvey, IL:** Harvey Public Schools, District 152 hears music in the air as Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School Jazz Band continues to make their mark in the world of music education. Band students ranging from 2<sup>nd</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> grade, along with their Music Director Roosevelt Griffin, performed for the A.S.C.D Annual Conference held at the McCormick Place Convention Center in Chicago, IL on March 18, 2013.

*“Greatness is in them.”* beams Superintendent Eric J. Kellogg, as he talks about the band students. *“With such dynamic leadership from director Mr. Griffin and the dedication of the students, you can’t help but to feel a sense of pride when talking about these young people, who are a product of this great community. The parents should also be commended for their tireless efforts to support their child’s gift of music and educational excellence.”*

Harvey Public Schools, District 152 School Board Vice President, Gloria Johnson who attended the conference stated, *“As the children started playing, you saw the expressions on the faces of the audience, trying to figure out if these were REALLY grade school students they were listening too. I knew our Jazz Band was phenomenal, but being in that theatre, being in that moment was something I’ll never forget.*

This award winning grade school jazz band has had many years of success. Mr. Griffin has been with the Brooks Jazz Band for many of those years, first as a student from 1993-1995. He later became the Musical Director for Harvey Public Schools District 152 in 2006.

*“We have worked extremely hard throughout the year and performing before a crowd of 10,000 made me so proud my students, proud of the support given to us by Superintendent and our School Board Members. It was an honor to proudly introduce that we are Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School Jazz Band of Harvey, IL. It was a life changing experience for us.”* said Roosevelt Griffin, Music Director

After gaining the attention of music leaders from Jazz Education Networks in Dallas Tx., Bud Biliken Parade coordinators and University of Norte Dame, Mr. Griffin and the Brooks Jazz Band will continue to remain busy as they set their sights on the one-day performing exclusively for White House, President Obama and the First Family.

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