



**PRESS ADVISORY:**

**Listen to the Students - Bring Back the Arts!**

**In Sacramento, Students Take a Leadership Role in Advocating for the Arts**

**WHAT:** In the face of California's budget crisis and the threat of more cuts to come to education, a school district, a community, and its students are taking a new approach to fighting to keep arts and music programs. At a kick-off event for "Students Bring Back The Arts" students will speak about why music education matters in their life and play music to share what they have learned.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, December 7, 2011, 6:00pm – 6:45pm

**WHERE:** Rosa Parks Middle School, 2250 68<sup>th</sup> Ave., Sacramento, CA 95822

**WHO:** School band members from Rosa Parks and John Still Middle Schools will speak and perform. Also invited: Mayor Kevin Johnson, Superintendent Jonathan Raymond, Principal Robert Sullivan, and California Alliance for Arts Education Executive Director, Joe Landon.

**BACKGROUND:** As elected officials deliberate about the fate of education funding, the voices of students have been largely ignored. "Students Bring Back the Arts" will give that voice a chance to be heard throughout the state.

The California Alliance for Arts Education and the Sacramento Unified School District are partnering to celebrate the district's commitment to provide a music program at Rosa Parks Middle School. The event kicks off a statewide effort to highlight school districts committed to providing arts programs for students.

Rosa Parks Middle School has been designated a 'program improvement' school. Part of creating a plan for the school involved consulting with community members to determine what parents consider to be priorities in their children's education. The parents at Rosa Parks chose opportunities to be involved in music as one of those priorities. Superintendent Jonathan Raymond responded to their call by creating a full-time music position, allow for more students to participate in band, orchestra and other learning opportunities.

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