

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Music is in the Air at Heritage Oak**

Yorba Linda, CA, October 3, 2007—While Heritage Oak Private Education has always provided a strong foundation in the arts to its students, this year, through its connection with the Meritas International Family of Schools, Heritage Oak has strengthened its arts repertoire through the introduction of a band program. The band is open to students in fourth through eighth grade and is under the direction of Mrs. Leah Son who comes to Heritage Oak after teaching at the Henderson School in Nevada, another member of the Meritas organization.

Not only did the connection with Meritas allow Heritage Oak to find and hire a top-notch full-time band director, it has also provided students with additional exposure talented music educators through a Meritas-wide teacher exchange. Just last week, Anthony Williams and Robyn Hollander from the North Broward Preparatory school in Coconut Creek, Florida visited Heritage Oak to bring their perspective and expertise to the Heritage Oak band classes.

“In the future, we are hoping to expand these exchanges to allow for students to get together as well,” explains Mrs. Son. “Three of our students have already had an opportunity to meet their counterparts at other Meritas schools through their participation in the European Charity Band Program. This program, headed by Meritas Fine Arts Director Danny Lieberman, allows students from Meritas schools to travel through Europe and perform as part of the International Make-A-Wish Foundation.”

This fall, Heritage Oak students and their families will also get another musical treat through their connection with Meritas—the North Broward Preparatory School Jazz Ensemble will visit Heritage Oak on October 8 to perform. The concert will be held at 6pm in the school’s gymnasium and is open to all Heritage Oak families.

### **About Heritage Oak**

Heritage Oak is a traditional school appealing to parents who are seeking a proven curriculum and a safe, nurturing environment. Community awareness, academic achievement, and family values are part of its program that focuses on the development of the whole child. The U.S. Department of Education bestowed its highest honor upon Heritage Oak when it awarded the school the 1998-1999 Blue Ribbon award. The Blue Ribbon, our Nation’s most prestigious education award, distinguishes Heritage Oak for its excellence in leadership, teaching, curriculum, student achievement, parent involvement, and community support.

### **About the Meritas Family of Schools**

Meritas LLC is a global family of unique and distinctive schools. Each school member is a student-centric community sharing certain core values as well as the privileges and opportunities of belonging to a worldwide network, whilst enjoying a high degree of local governance and the special characteristics arising from its unique settings, traditions, history, and culture.

Meritas schools are academically aggressive and strive for excellence for their students and their learning communities. They define and share "best practices" and are always seeking to improve. They are unrelentingly engaged in inspiring every student to achieve his or her full potential, and toward that end, they offer a wide array of learning and growth experiences both in and outside the classroom, at home and abroad. In this context, every opportunity is given to student, regardless of aptitude, to graduate successfully and thrive at university.