

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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First Annual Meritas Music Festival

On March 25th -28th, 2009 students from eight Meritas schools met in Houston, Texas for the first annual Meritas Music Festival. Three hundred students from across the Meritas Family of schools made up various instrumental and vocal ensembles including band and orchestra. Heritage Oak Private Education was proud to be part of this amazing event sending eighth grade students William Kim, Benjamin Pun, Steven Lee, and Derek Lee to participate in both the middle school concert band and middle school jazz band.

The students' days were filled with band rehearsals and extracurricular activities such as drum circle and swing dance. During their break times, they were entertained by a humorous and talented magician, as well as artists drawing caricatures of the students. During the second evening of the festival, the students were treated to an exciting evening at the theater to watch a performance of *Les Miserables*. All students were happily surprised at how much they enjoyed the story line and the performance itself.

The culminating event of the Meritas Music Festival was a concert involving all 300 students performing for their parents, community members, and of course, each other. At the beginning of the concert, Meritas Fine Arts presented Libi Lebel with a \$500 check in recognition of her contributions to the community and to the fine arts program. The Doctor's Orchestra of Houston, which is based in Houston and comprised of practicing and retired doctors, was next in the lineup. The finale of this concert was when the Meritas Anthem was performed by three-hundred students simultaneously. The sight of so many student musicians in one room was incredible and the refinement of the music after only a few short days of rehearsal was impressive. The students met new friends, played great repertoire, and learned how to work well with others. The Festival was a huge success!

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 just part of a 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.