



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***CMSA'S BAND PRESENTS "CONCERT FOR A CAUSE"
TO BENEFIT
STAND UP FOR KIDS CHICAGO***

Chicago, IL – (April 25, 2017) – Chicago Math and Science Academy (CMSA)'s award winning Concert Band will present their 5th Annual Concert for a Cause on May 4, 2017 to benefit Stand Up for Kids Chicago. The concert is on May 4, 2017 at 5:00pm at the school located at 7212 North Clark Street. Admission is \$5.00.



The concert marks the 5th anniversary of what has become a CMSA musical tradition. At the beginning of the year, students in Band Director Ms. Shanova Vincent-Friend's class conducts research on the many nonprofits providing vital services to their communities in need of support. After their research the students vote on which organization will receive a portion of their donations from their spring concert. Last year's event raised over \$1,000 for The Water Project. Other recipients include Joakim Noah Noah's Arc Foundation, St. Jude's Children Cancer Research Fund and CeaseFire

"Having the opportunity to make music, engage talent and abilities of my students by equipping and empowering them to support various causes with resources necessary to sustain and succeed is not work, but rather a privilege I dearly appreciate", states Band Director Ms. Vincent.

Most of the students in the music program come in without any prior musical training. For the overwhelming majority of them the first time they hold an instrument in their hands is when they walk into Ms. Vincent's class the success they achieve through the years are a testament to their dedication as well as the leadership and discipline instilled in them by their beloved teacher, Ms. Vincent. This past March, the CMSA Concert Band students who attended the annual IHSA (Illinois High School Association) Solo & Ensemble Festival came back with many medals. Pictured in the release: Lance Velez, Kahselpaw Nay, Anthony Howard and Ricardo Enriquez were all awarded Division I gold medals for their performance. Erik Bucio, Kimberly Hoard, Samsondeen Batula, Shadiyat Batula and Oluwakemi Oyedokun were also successful as they placed Division II with silver medals. Anthony Howard will attend Concordia University, with a music scholarship, due to his expertise with the tuba. Anthony feels that "out of all of our concerts, this one touches me the most. Mainly because, we are raising money for homeless kids just like me, and teenage years are some of the most crucial times in your life. If we can get these kids back on their feet, then I'm sure it will make a positive change for their communities."

Since 2004, it has been the mission of Chicago Math & Science Academy located in the Rogers Park community to prepare students for college and the world beyond by offering high-quality, college-prep, STEM-focused education that changes the trajectory of students' lives.

Chicago Math & Science Academy is managed by Concept Schools. Concept Schools is a charter school management organization that manages or operates 30 public charter schools throughout the Midwest. Our college-prep curriculum is STEM-based, and like any other public school, each school in the Concept network is highly regulated and overseen by their respective school districts and charter authorizers. Schools within the Concept Network are continuously recognized for their excellence in education.