

## Georgetown Jazz Festival March 31st, 2012

Hello fellow directors,

Our 3rd Annual Georgetown Jazz Festival will be held Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012 for not only high school, but middle schools as well. You can find the application at [www.georgetowneagleband.org/jazzfestival](http://www.georgetowneagleband.org/jazzfestival). In a nutshell, this festival will give each band the opportunity to receive a performance, clinic, ratings, and a concert by The Georgetown Jazz Ensemble featuring Guest Artist Alex Parker, Jazz Studies Director at Baylor University at the end of the night.

Competing bands will be selected on a first-come first-serve basis, as determined by the e-mail date, fax date, or postmark on the envelope containing the application forms and competition fee. There will be a stand by list for schools to enter should a competing band withdraw from the contest. Competition will start around 9:00 AM with middle school groups and end around 7:00PM with high school bands.

Guest artist, Alex Parker serves as the director of the Baylor Jazz Ensemble, the Baylor Concert Jazz Ensemble, jazz combos, jazz string quartets and he teaches undergraduate and graduate students in several jazz disciplines. Mr. Parker holds a Master of Music degree from the University of Miami at Coral Gables and a Bachelor of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music. His background is in jazz writing, jazz performance and jazz pedagogy, as well as trumpet performance and instrumental teaching.

As a reminder, all participants will receive free tickets to the Saturday evening concert and awards ceremony while all other spectators, family, and friends will need to pay \$7.00 for admission. **Entries for the competition must be postmarked by March 2<sup>nd</sup>**. The entry fee is \$150.00 for each band which will include recording services in the entry fee.

I would like to encourage schools of all sizes and levels of experience to participate. The experience of playing in a jazz festival and the helpful comments given by the adjudicators are invaluable to a jazz program. The judges are instructed to share their knowledge of jazz by giving educational comments that will help students and directors alike. As a reminder, you may choose to opt out of ratings and be given comments only. This means your band will not be considered for the competition part of the festival. Whether you choose ratings or comments only, your students will still be considered for All-Star Awards.

The primary goal for the Georgetown Jazz Festival is to provide a positive and educational opportunity for jazz enthusiasts. I hope that you take advantage of our efforts and support the festival by attending the events and encouraging others to enjoy your ensembles as well. I look forward to hearing your group perform in March and please continue to support jazz education in Central Texas.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Mariño - Stevenson  
Associate Director  
Georgetown High School