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| Dear Colleagues,  Newark Academy is pleased to partner with Jazz at Lincoln Center to bring the internationally recognized and acclaimed Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Program to Livingston, New Jersey. On Saturday, April 14, 2018, Newark Academy and Jazz at Lincoln Center will holds it’s fifth annual ***Essentially Ellington* High School Jazz Band Regional Festival*.***  This non-competitive regional festival offers an opportunity to perform Ellington’s music and receive professional feedback from Jazz at Lincoln Center clinicians and other jazz professionals. Participating bands must play at least one tune from the Essentially Ellington library and they will receive a post-performance workshop, soloist awards, section awards and audio adjudicator feedback.  In year’s past we have had clinicians- Steve Turre, Jeremy Pelt, Justin DiCioccio, Abraham Burton, Mark Gross, Terrell Stafford, Freddie Hendrix, to name a few. This year we are excited to announce that we will have trumpeter Pharez Whitted, educator Chris Dorsey, and saxophonist Jimmy Greene. More clinicians will be announced as we get closer.  Each band will have a 20 minute clinic after their on stage performance. Bands will also have section clinics and an improvisation clinic. Other activities include a student jam session, director’s round table luncheon, and vendors will be available for students and directors to try instruments.  We invite you to register by emailing and sending a check to the address below and include the name of you school, director’s name and phone number. Please register as soon as possible, as we will fill our limited vacancies on a first-come-first-served basis. Registration is open to high school bands from the tri-state area.  Sincerely,    Julius Tolentino  Jazz Director, Newark Academy  MSJA Director, Jazz at Lincoln Center  Board Member, Jazz Education Network  **Registration**  Registration for the festival is $250.00 per jazz ensemble. Directors wishing to bring two groups may do so. We limit participation by one school to no more than two bands. Registration for two ensembles is $325.00.  Email [jtolentino@newarka.edu](mailto:jtolentino@newarka.edu)  Checks may be made payable to **Newark Academy** and mailed directly to:  Newark Academy  (Attn: Julius Tolentino)  91 South Orange Avenue  Livingston, NJ 07039  We will accept registrations until the program slots are filled. All high school ensembles participating in the festival are required to join Jazz at Lincoln Center’s 2017-2018 Essentially Ellington program. By joining the free program directors will receive seven new transcriptions, as well as reference recordings, teaching guides, newsletters and other resources. You can join the program online by visiting [*http://academy.jazz.org/ee/*](http://academy.jalc.org/ee/)completing an online membership form. For questions about the Essentially Ellington program or to receive a membership form by fax or mail, contact Maegan McHugh at 212-258-9810 or ee@jalc.org.  **Newark Academy Regional Festival Rules**  High School Jazz Bands will be required to perform three selections of varying styles: Swing tune, Ballad, Latin, etc. One of these three compositions, whether swing, ballad. Latin, etc., must be from either the current or past *Essentially Ellington* Series.  All eligible *Essentially Ellington* Series charts are published by Warner Bros Publications or Alfred Publishing Co. and prominently feature an *Essentially Ellington* logo on the cover of the conductor's score.  Remember directors, that in addition to the charts received through membership with the 2017-2018 *Essentially Ellington* program, you may also elect to perform any of the previously published charts. For a complete list of all titles in the *Essentially Ellington* library, visit www.jazz.org/ee.  **Procedures for Big Bands**  Each band will receive 25 minutes total for their performance. This includes set-up, tuning, and exit from the stage. A warm-up room will be available to each band 25 minutes prior to their scheduled performance time. Adjudicators will record audio comments as well as complete the numerical ratings for a festival adjudication sheet.  In addition, we also ask that each director provide two copies of a program guide for the adjudicators listing compositions and composers, listing the soloists name and instrument for each selection and a list of band personnel. Lead players should be identified.  **Post-Performance Clinic**  Following your scheduled performance, you will receive a 25 minute clinic with one of our two approved *Essentially Ellington* clinicians.  **Other opportunities: Clinics, Jam Session, Director’s Round Table Luncheon, Vendors**  There will be clinics for each section and improvisation clinics, as well as a student jam session during lunch. Director’s will have a luncheon sponsored by the school and vendors will be available for students to try instruments and other equipment.  **Awards**  The judges will identify Outstanding Soloists, Outstanding Performers and one Outstanding Band during the festival. At the awards ceremony these individuals will be recognized and provided with a certificate signed by the guest artists. Soloists will also be eligible for scholarships to Newark Academy’s Jazz Summer Workshop.  **The *Essentially Ellington* High School Jazz Band Program** *(EE)* is unique among educational resources for high school jazz bands. Each year, Jazz at Lincoln Center transcribes, publishes, and distributes charts by Duke Ellington and other seminal big band composers and arrangers, along with additional educational materials to bands in the U.S., Canada and American schools abroad. Beyond providing these charts, *EE* also supports its members throughout the school year with a variety of initiatives including teaching guides, the *Essentially Ellington* website, monthly newsletters, a student essay contest, and professional feedback of student performances of the charts.  Schools that join the program are eligible for participation in noncompetitive regional festivals and also have the option to submit a recording for the national *Essentially Ellington* High School Jazz Band Competition & Festival held annually in New York City at Frederick P. Rose Hall, the home of Jazz at Lincoln Center.  Fifteen bands are selected as finalists and, to prepare, each finalist band receives an in-school workshop in their community led by a professional musician. *Essentially* Ellington culminates in a three-day festival in May for the finalist bands, including workshops, rehearsals, jam sessions, and performances. The three top-placing  bands perform an evening concert with Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra.  Since 1995, more than 350,000 students have participated in *Essentially Ellington. To* date, more than 100,000 copies of 96 previously unavailable scores have been distributed to more than 3,500 schools in the United States, Canada and American schools abroad. In 2006, *Essentially Ellington* piloted noncompetitive, education- focused Regional festivals in an effort to reach more bands and provide the opportunity to perform Ellington's music and receive professional feedback from JALC clinicians and other jazz professionals in their own backyard.  **Jazz at Lincoln Center** is dedicated to inspiring and growing audiences for jazz. With the world-renowned Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and a comprehensive array of guest artists, Jazz at Lincoln Center advances a unique vision for the continued development of the art of jazz by producing a year-round schedule of performance, education and broadcast events for audiences of all ages. These productions include concerts, national and international tours, residencies, yearly hall of fame inductions, weekly national radio and television programs, recordings, publications, an annual high school jazz band competition and festival, a band director academy, jazz appreciation curriculum for students, music publishing, children's concerts, lectures, adult education courses, student and educator workshops and interactive websites. Under the leadership of Managing and Artistic Director Wynton Marsalis Jazz at Lincoln Center will produce nearly 3,000 events during its 2017-2018 season in its home in New York City, Frederick P. Rose Hall, and around the world. Please visit our website at www.jazz.org.  **Newark Academy Regional Essentially Ellington Festival**  Saturday, April 14, 2018  Registration: 9:30am  Newark Academy  91 South Orange Ave  Livingston, NJ 07039  We look forward to your participation!  **Contact Julius Tolentino with any questions at jtolentino@newarka.edu** |