



Media Advisory

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Traverse City Area Public Schools Announces:

East Middle School Students Receive Surprise Visit by Father Fred Foundation's Spiritual Leader, Father Iakovos Olechnowicz While Rehearsing for November 19th Benefit Concert

On Thursday, November 19th, the Traverse City East Middle School Jazz and Symphony Band students will host a concert to benefit the Father Fred Foundation. Today students received a surprise visit and words of appreciation and encouragement from Father Iakovos Olechnowicz while rehearsing their performance pieces for Thursday evening's concert.

The benefit concert will include a variety of ensemble performances including small ensemble pieces that have been arranged and organized by the students and will feature swing, blues, bossa nova, and much more. East Middle School band director, Peter Deneen remarked "students have really taken ownership all along the way from the idea stage, to forming their ensembles, rehearsing on their own time and getting the word out about how the concert will make a difference in the community. Deneen credits his student teacher Rebekah Olechnowicz with helping to inspire students to recognize and act on the possibilities for sharing their talents and time to serve and make difference. "She discussed the idea of a concert for a cause with students and our Principal and everyone got excited to make it happen," noted Deneen.

At the November 19th concert, students will have an outstanding learning opportunity to perform together with special guests from the Bay Area Big Band Combo, featuring Chris Bickley, Steve Stargardt on piano, Jack Dryden on bass, and Jon Lindenau on drums as a special collaboration with the Bay Area Music Foundation.

The concert will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the TC East Middle School Performance Hall, 1776 Three Mile Road North. Donations will be accepted in lieu of a set ticket price. All donations will benefit the Father Fred Foundation. Suggested donations include personal care items. There is a

Note: When schools are in session, all visitors are required to sign in at the Main Office and receive a "Visitors Pass" upon entering a TCAPS school or event.

special need for diapers in sizes 4, 5, and 6. The TC East Middle School Bands will deliver all items donated to the Father Fred Pantry on Tuesday, November 24th.

For more information please call the TC East Middle School Music Office at (231) 933-6950.

The event weaves together wonderful collaborations to expand students' musical horizons, bring happiness and joy to those in attendance, and serve the needs of the community during homeless awareness week.

Students would be thrilled if media would attend their event.

Attached Photos:

Father Iakovos Olechnowicz looks on with appreciation as East Middle School students and student teacher rehearse.

East Middle School student (and brothers) rehearse the duet performance piece they have arranged.