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TEXAS BANDMASTERS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS 2019 EXEMPLARY BAND PROGRAM AWARDS

San Antonio, Texas – The Texas Bandmasters Association recently named the Lindale Junior High School Band recipient of a 2019 Exemplary Band Program Award. TBA President John Morrison will present this award to Director Bene Davis during the annual TBA Convention/Clinic in downtown San Antonio this summer. The ceremony will be held on Thursday, July 25 at 7:15 p.m. in the Lila Cockrell Theatre and will be followed by a performance by the Boston Brass. The event is free to the public.

The Texas Bandmasters Association promotes the value of music education in our society and the important role instrumental music plays in our cultural, intellectual and social lives. The Exemplary Band Program Award is given once a year by the TBA Board of Directors to one Texas high school and one middle school band program that has proven to consistently produce an exemplary performing band program for an extended period of time. The awards are celebrated at the TBA's summer convention.

TBA is made up of persons working in or retired from the music education profession. Over six thousand band directors, spouses and family members, music students, performers and exhibitors will attend the convention July 25-27 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio. The schedule includes over 60 educational clinics, numerous concerts and performance demonstrations, and an Exhibit Hall with approximately 500 vendors presenting the latest products from leaders in the music industry. The TBA website offers more information on the Convention/Clinic and an extended catalog of educational material for band directors, music teachers and students www.texasbandmasters.org.

Lindale Junior High School Band Program

Located in the piney woods of Northeast Texas, Lindale Junior High School has an enrollment of 635 students in seventh and eighth grades. Lindale ISD is known for its academic excellence with a focus on college and career readiness. Lindale is one of those old-fashioned towns where the schools are the heart of the community. Lindale Junior High has earned many awards and achievements based upon the academic performance of its students including:

- 2014-2018: TEA Accountability - LJH met Standard Rating, earning all seven of seven distinctions each year
- 2015: Named a Middle School Matters George Bush Institute Showcase Campus
- 2015-2018: Named a Texas Honor Roll Campus by the Educational Results Partnership and Institute for Productivity in Education.
- 2015-2019: UIL Academic District Champions
- 2018 and 2019: One Act Play District Champions. OAP District Champions four out of the last five years.

Band begins in the sixth grade on the campus of E. J. Moss Intermediate School with four periods of homogeneous, beginner classes. The directors are fortunate to have ample space to split into several classes during each class period. There are currently over 240 students in beginner band.

At Lindale Junior High, there are 212 seventh graders enrolled in Band for 2019-20. Historically, this group is divided into two bands that are equally split according to ability level. The eighth grade band of about 140 students is split into two bands by ability level. The Symphonic Band is the varsity group, and the Concert Band is the non-varsity group.

The Lindale Junior High Bands perform three concerts each year including Christmas concerts for the

elementary and intermediate campuses. The bands play at the last three LJH football games and pep rallies. All four bands attend UIL Concert and Sightreading Evaluation. LJH Band students participate in Region 21 TMEA All-Region auditions and in the Region 21 Middle School Solo and Ensemble Contest. This year, 72 students earned a chair in the TMEA All-Region Band. The LJH Band earned 300 first-division medals at the Region 21 Middle School Band Solo and Ensemble Contest in 2019. The Symphonic Band has earned 37 consecutive UIL Sweepstakes awards in Class CC and has been an ATSSB OPS first place winner and finalist several times. Additionally, the Non-Varsity Bands are consistent UIL Sweepstakes winners year in and year out. All four bands participate in a band festival at the end of the year in which they are consistent first-division recipients. Along with their band activities, a majority of the LJH Band students are involved in many other activities on campus that include athletics, cheerleading, drama productions, Student Council, and UIL Academic Events.

The Lindale Junior High Band feeds the Lindale High School Band which has its own long and storied history of awards including:

- 44 years in a row of First-Division Ratings at UIL Marching Contest
- 42 out of 44 years of UIL Sweepstakes
- 21 consecutive UIL Sweepstakes
- Advanced to the State Marching Contest, 2002 and 2004
- 2007 TMEA AAA Honor Band

In 2008, the Lindale High School Band was the TBA Exemplary Award Winner. This year marks only the second time that both a high school band and their middle school feeder have both been recipients of this award. (Kimbrough Middle School Band under the direction of Mr. Chris Brown, and the Poteet High School Band under the direction of Mr. Scott Coulson were the first feeder and high school band in the same cluster to receive this award.)

The Lindale Band receives wonderful support from central administration, the school board, campus administrators, faculty, staff, parents, and the community. The LJH Band would not enjoy the successes they have without the unending support of their campus administrators, Jeremy Chilek and Tracie Rand. In fact, Mr. Chilek is a former Lindale Band student and coach at Lindale High School. The Lindale Band family is blessed with some of the finest teachers in the business who work together to ensure the success of our students. Lindale Junior High Band staff includes: Taylor Bates, Melissa Fisher, Casey Johnson, and Bene Davis-Director. The Lindale High School Band staff includes: Weston Fisher, Susan Scott, and Steven Moore-Head Director. Brent Cannon, retired LJH Band Director 2017, is still a big part of our program. The band staff works closely together using a team-teaching approach in each of our band classes. Hubert "Butch" Almany was the Head Director from 1975 to 1996. Mr. Almany established a drive for excellence and strong work ethic that permeates the Lindale Band program to this day. Additional clinicians and mentors include Harvey Durham, Doice Grant, Neil Grant, Rusty Lay, Sherry Poteet, and Jim Young.