

East Aurora School District 131

NEWS RELEASE

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Making Choices for Excellence

Monday, March 01, 2010

EA JAZZ BAND RECEIVES HIGH MARKS AT UIC JAZZ FEST

(Aurora)- The East Aurora High School Jazz Ensemble received a **Division I (Superior) Rating** at the **University of Illinois at Chicago High School Jazz Festival** held on Monday, February 22, 2010 in Chicago.

The UIC High School Jazz Festival is an opportunity for high school jazz bands in the greater Chicago area to visit UIC and work with the university's award-winning jazz faculty. Each high school performs three selections and UIC faculty members rate them in the categories of solos, intonation, balance, articulation, dynamics, style/interpretation, and overall presentation.

The 27-piece East Aurora Jazz Ensemble performed **Blue Cellophane by Duke Ellington**, which featured East High Junior Rudy Reza on trombone; **Chameleon by Herbie Hancock**; and **Black Coffee by Paul Francis Webster and Sonny Burke**. The UIC Jazz Faculty was very impressed by the size and sheer talent of the East Aurora Jazz Ensemble.

East Aurora High School received high marks and glowing comments from all the judges. The unanimous decision from the judges was a Division I (Superior) Rating.

After the performances, the UIC faculty helped hone the skills of each section and assisted them in developing the 'jazz style.' The final experience for the band was to listen to a performance by the UIC faculty.

Congratulations to the East Aurora Jazz Ensemble and Band Director, Mr. Brian Liska!