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FOR RELEASE: Immediate

Farmington Public Schools' string orchestra students partner with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra for "Day for Strings" event, January 28

Farmington, Michigan – Farmington Public Schools invite all to attend the 20th annual “Day for Strings” event. This program is a wonderful example of school/community/business partnerships, pairing District string orchestra students with Detroit Symphony Orchestra professionals. Many of the guest artist/clinicians are not only accomplished musicians, but are residents of Farmington/Farmington Hills and the surrounding areas. In addition, guest conductors from outside the community will work with all students in unique ensemble and full string orchestra settings.

This year’s event will be held on Saturday, January 28, with activities taking place throughout North Farmington High School beginning at 7:45 a.m. More than 800 Farmington Public Schools' string orchestra students will be participating this year. The day will be divided into two halves with fifth, seventh and high school concert orchestras performing at 11 a.m., and sixth, eighth and high school honors orchestras performing at 3:15 p.m. All are welcome to attend these performances which take place at North Farmington High School located on Thirteen Mile Road just east of Farmington Road.

Some of the day’s guest artists include:

Linda Tolia (Professional Teacher and Violist) – Conductor, fifth/sixth grade orchestra

Tony Krempa – (Professional Violinist and Teacher) – Conductor, seventh/eighth grade orchestras

Raphael Jimenez (Professor of Music, Michigan State University) – Conductor, high school concert and honors orchestras

Professional string players from the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Michigan Opera Theater and more!

Farmington Public Schools' entire instrumental music faculty actively participates and is responsible for making this a very special activity for all District string students. Instrumental teachers include:

Peggy Babcock	Harrison High School
Joel Yoder	Harrison High School
Bill Milicevic	Farmington High School
Michael Steele	Farmington High School
Peter Tolia	North Farmington High School
Mike Yoskovich	North Farmington High School

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Jack Hawkins	Dunckel Middle School
Vicki Sharples	Dunckel Middle School
David Drake	East Middle School
Tracey Riggs	East Middle School
Angel Gippert	Power Upper Elementary School
Sandra Vargo	Power Upper Elementary School
Rob Wilson	Power Upper Elementary School
Sydney Campbell	Warner Upper Elementary School
John Kennedy	Warner Upper Elementary School
Catha Thomas	Warner Upper Elementary School

The day will include rehearsals, clinics, section rehearsals, refreshments and a special "Informance" for parents and friends at 11 a.m. for the morning sessions (fifth, seventh and high school concert orchestras) and at 3:15 p.m. for the afternoon session (sixth, eighth and high school honors orchestra). Both performances will be held in the gymnasium. Admission to the program is free.

The concerts will show the developmental stages of Farmington Public Schools' string program and also celebrate string playing in general. This event epitomizes the fact that music and the arts encourage lifelong learning and community participation.