19 Years of Excellence in 
Music & Education

ENDING THE YEAR ON A GOOD NOTE!

It's hard to believe that another school year is coming to an end so quickly!

Despite the challenges and difficulties caused by the pandemic over the past 2 ½ years, our team, students, parents, staff, and partners, remained steadfast and the 2022-2023 school year has proven to be a great year. Thank you to them all!

Our FAME Jazz Band Program (FJBP) student musicians devoted themselves to increasing their musicianship and more importantly to academic excellence.

We are looking forward to an exciting summer of music designed for middle and high school students with our partners, the School of Music, the University of Maryland College Park, and Prince George's County Public Schools. See details on page 2.

I am so proud of the success of all FAME students who participate in our Music Is Central Program, Summer Music Program, and the FAME Jazz Band Program. Congratulations to our FAME Alumni who are blazing many trails for the future. Kudos to Innovative Study Techniques (IST), for being our 19-year academic partner. We welcome our new Music Is Central partners, the United Communities Against Poverty/Shepherd’s Cove & the instrumental music department at Benjamin Foulois Creative and Performing Arts. We plan to open our satellite space at Harmony Hall Arts Center in Fort Washington this summer, we will keep you posted.

Students know that our expectations are high at FAME, and we will continue to maintain high academic and music standards. Parents and youth musicians choose FAME because we expect them to take full advantage of the breadth and depth of academic support offered.

Here's to another great year! I hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,

A. Toni Lewis

FAME is a harmony of music and education. We prepare middle and high school youth for college and career through a four-pronged approach: Music Instruction, Academic Support, College Preparation, and Work Readiness. FAME challenges students to set high expectations for their academic and life achievements by expanding students’ experiences to demonstrate that they are not defined by their current conditions or surroundings.

Help us keep the music playing at FAME by visiting and donating at FAMEmusic.org.

Apply and audition for the FAME Jazz Band Program in October!
This year, FAME turns 19 and we will mark this occasion with our annual Anniversary and Awards celebration at the University of Maryland, College Park!

Registration is open for the 2023 FAME Summer Music Program. This unique and fun-filled summer program is designed for students wanting to improve their musicianship, seeking careers in music, or for those who have an interest in exploring music composition, recording, production, or singing. Open to students entering grades 7-12, the program has (3) one-week workshops spanning instrumental music, music technology, vocal music, and songwriting. Materials and lunch are included.

Interested in becoming a sponsor?
Visit FAMEmusic.org
In December, we celebrated the holiday community spirit as the FAME Jazz Band, directed by Dr. Clarence Knight, the FAME Jazz Ensemble, FAME Alumni, and The Dance Institute of Washington, came together for a live performance of FAME's new holiday CD. The album, A Jazzy Holiday – a collection of holiday favorites in traditional and contemporary jazz stylings, was produced by FAME Jazz Band Program alumni, Julian Wilson (Berklee College of Music) and Langston Hughes II (Howard University). The Executive producer is Morris Wilson. The CD is available for download from all major music streaming platforms, including:

FAME-Wise, our satellite location in Dr. Henry Wise High School is up and running.

Our FAME-Harmony Hall satellite location will open in the Harmony Hall Arts Center, Fort Washington MD, at the end of July in partnership with the Prince George’s County Parks & Recreation Department. Visit FAMEmusic.org to stay tuned for the ribbon-cutting date!

We will offer all FAME programs at these locations: Music Is Central Program, FAME Jazz Band Program, and the Summer Music Program. These spaces answer the call from the communities to provide FAME’s programming in south county neighborhoods where public transportation and access to out-of-school activities are limited.

Many thanks to the Prince George’s County Public Schools, Prince George’s County Parks & Recreation, community members, FAME’s parents, students, volunteers, and staff who worked diligently with the nonprofit Neighborhood Design Center, to create these state-of-the-art and inviting learning environments that will help FAME continue to bring equity to Prince George’s County students.

Big Stages

The FAME Jazz Ensemble provided music entertainment for the Smithsonian Education Awards Program - "Excellence and Achievement in Education." The event recognized 150 employees and was led by Dr. Monique Chism, Smithsonian Under Secretary for Education, (on left) with a keynote given by Smithsonian Secretary Lonnie Bunch III (Center).

New Digs

'Tis the Season:A Jazzy Holiday
FAME in Action

FAME had a very active year! **Prince George's County Executive, Angela Alsobrooks**, met a few of our youth musicians during her budget briefing. **Dr. Chelsey Green and the Green Project** conducted workshops for middle and high school students at UMD College Park. **Founder/CEO A. Toni Lewis**, received the TEACH AWARD, from Community Youth Advance (CYA) in recognition of her courageous leadership as a champion for equitable education for all students. This year, FAME presented its Education Leader of the Year Award to **Jeffrey Parker, Principal, Dr. Henry A. Wise High School**. FAME students, Ella Wheeler & Ahmena Jones had the pleasure of talking with **Maryland's First Lady, Dawn Moore**, at the County's 38th Women's History Luncheon in March. Ella & Ahmena performed with Julian Wilson at the beginning of the program. Under the leadership of **Dr. Clarence Knight**, The FAME Jazz Band performed at Prince George’s County Community College’s 1st Annual Jazz Festival. Check these highlights and more from our 2022-2023 school year with new and old friends below!
The year-round FAME Jazz Band Program (FJBP) was established in 2015 to provide high-caliber music and academic support and instruction to middle and high school youth in Prince George’s County MD, who are serious about music and want to take their education to a higher level. This year we have seven stellar graduates who to date have received offers from 31+ colleges, and $1.26 million in scholarships (more is expected). These and many other accomplishments prove that FAME is making academics and music the priority.
The SAT is changing...

The SAT and PSATs aren’t just going fully digital — the tests’ structure and content are totally changing! The new PSAT NMSQT and PSAT 8/9 digital tests are scheduled to begin in October 2023. The new SAT is scheduled to begin in March 2024. All School Day and Saturday SAT administrations will be able to use pencil and paper until then.

To start with, students must bring a laptop, tablet, or school-managed Chromebook, with the Bluebook application installed, to the test. You can request a device from the College Board when registering for your exam if you don’t have one. But wait, we’re getting ahead of ourselves! Just what are the new tests about and what else other than going digital will change? We are in continuous training on these digital models, but here’s a snapshot of what’s coming:

The digital SAT is taken on a computer within College Board’s Bluebook App. The length of the test is one of the most substantial changes to the SAT- it is 2 hours and 14 minutes long and has 98 questions—46 minutes shorter and 56 fewer questions than the paper test. There are two sections: (1) a Reading and Writing section and (2) a Math section. Both sections are divided into two modules of equal length.

The second substantial change is that the Digital SAT & the PSATs are computer-adaptive tests. A computer adaptive test adapts to your level of ability as you take the test. So, your performance determines which questions you see next. There are various kinds of computer adaptive tests and the digital SAT and PSAT are specific section adaptive tests, or “multistage adaptive tests.”

FAME has designated this corner of upcoming newsletters for ongoing updates throughout the year as we begin preparing students for the new test. STAY TUNED. In the meantime, please reach out to the team at IST to learn more about how we plan to prepare FAME students.
My name is Joshua Beamer and I have been a member of FAME since 2019 after I was accepted into the Musicians in Training (MIT) program. My experience with FAME has made me become a better musician and student, all while having fun. The music theory classes have taught me a lot about intervals, scales, and notes. The sectionals and rehearsals give me the opportunity to learn and practice music that I have never heard before.

Everything that I learned as an MIT member eventually paid off. In 2021, I was promoted to the FAME Jazz Band. I was shocked, very happy, and honored. The music that the band has to play is a bit challenging but I know that I can handle it. It’s only going to make me a better musician.

FAME has taught me a lot about music and has made me a better saxophonist but FAME has also helped me become a better student. I have had a Math tutor through FAME ever since I started. With the help of FAME, I have been offered over $24,000 in scholarships for music and academics for high school. I was able to go through music auditions with confidence and was proud to say that I am a member of FAME when asked where did I get my skills.

My math grades helped me to get invited to take a test to see if I would qualify for an Engineering program at a high school that I applied to. I just found out that I passed the test and so now I will be a part of that Engineering program, as well as a part of their music program. FAME is the best!
wanna hire FAME?

The FAME Jazz Band or Ensemble is available to play at your event! Consider jazzing up your next event with music performed by experienced FAME Jazz Band Program musicians.

Visit FAMEmusic.org/musician-request/

Ways to Support FAME

FAME relies on private support to fund and maintain its music and education programs. These are just some of the ways to help keep the music playing in the hearts of our youth:

Establish a memorial gift or honorary tribute, or make other charitable contributions using one of our convenient methods of giving, including:
CashApp: $FAMEMusic, PayPal.
To submit your contribution by mail, complete the donation form: http://famemusic.org/fame-donation-form.pdf

Mail to: FAME
P.O. Box 2228
Bowie, MD 20718-2228

To contribute via phone, please contact FAME at: 301-805-5358
Corporate and matching gifts can double or triple your own personal gift.

To participate in your company’s matching program, contact your human resources department and complete the required form. Submit the form to FAME with your gift.