



# Douglas Anderson School of the Arts

WHERE ARTS & ACADEMICS MEET IN EXCELLENCE

April 22, 2010

## *Jackie Cornelius*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FINE ARTS  
FOR DUVAL COUNTY and  
PRINCIPAL of DA

## *Lianna Knight*

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

## *Melanie Hammer*

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

## *Lashantah Holliday*

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

A DUVAL COUNTY  
PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL

National Model School of Excellence  
INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR  
LEADERSHIP EDUCATION

National GOLD Grammy Signature School  
GRAMMY FOUNDATION  
Tenth year

High School Jazz Competition Winner, 2008  
THE ESSENTIALLY DUKE ELLINGTON

FLORIDA A+ SCHOOL  
For seven years

Best Academic High Schools, 2009  
NEWSWEEK  
Eighth year

Top 100 Public High Schools, 2009  
U.S. NEWS and WORLD REPORTS

Florida Music Demonstration School  
2007-2009

Exemplary School Award 2007  
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF SCHOOLS FOR  
THE ADVANCEMENT OF ARTS EDUCATION

Community Partnership Award 2007  
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF SCHOOLS FOR  
THE ADVANCEMENT OF ARTS EDUCATION

Arts Innovation Award, 2007  
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF SCHOOLS FOR  
THE ADVANCEMENT OF ARTS EDUCATION

National Leader School  
U.S. DEPT. OF EDUCATION



Dear Senior:

You are to be commended for reaching a very significant goal in your life--completion of twelve years of education. We will begin celebration of this event together with two serious, formal ceremonies--Baccalaureate and Commencement. Both of these ceremonies are designed to honor you in a dignified manner--one to provide you with inspirational messages and the other to award your diploma, the symbol of high school graduation. Though participation in these two programs is not mandatory, I encourage you to take part. There is something very moving about both of these ceremonies and these last two important times for the Class of 2010 to be together before it disperses in many different directions.

**Baccalaureate** will be held Sunday, **June 6**, at 3 p.m. in the DA Theatre. I certainly encourage all graduates to participate in this program that will feature inspirational messages and select senior arts performances. Since seating is limited, each senior may request up to three tickets when picking up his/her cap and gown. Additional Baccalaureate tickets may be available **upon request** after cap and gown distribution on June 3. If you choose to participate in Baccalaureate, you are **required to attend the rehearsal at 1 p.m. Friday, June 4**, in the DA theatre.

**Commencement** will be held Wednesday, **June 9**, at **7 p.m.** in the **Moran Theatre** at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts. The Douglas Anderson School of the Arts Commencement has earned a reputation throughout the community as being one of the most impressive high school graduations in the area. We have such an impressive graduation ceremony because we have the cooperation of students and families to help us maintain the formal atmosphere we want for our school. I ask each of you to share with your family and friends the significant role they play in maintaining the dignity of the event. They, too, are requested to remain **ABSOLUTELY SILENT DURING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF ALL THE GRADUATES' NAMES.** Silence is an important element in showing respect for each of you and for the class as a whole.

**Each senior who has satisfied all academic, financial, and disciplinary obligations will receive ten (10) Commencement tickets** with cap and gown on Thursday, **June 3**. Admission to Commencement is by ticket only. (Graduation announcements **are not** tickets). **ALL guests--regardless of age and whether or not they need a seat--MUST have a ticket.** If you need additional tickets, please begin now, if you haven't already, to seek out graduates who won't need all ten of their tickets. If you are a graduate who will not be using all of your allotted ten tickets, ***please* let Mrs. Kessel know as soon as possible. Return unneeded** tickets to her in portable 13.

**Attendance at both of the following Commencement rehearsals is mandatory.**

- **1 p.m. on Friday, June 4:** graduates meet in the DA theatre to hear an overview of the commencement ceremony and to rehearse selected portions of it.
- **9 a.m. on Wednesday, June 9:** graduates meet **at the bus-loading zone at 8:15 a.m. and ride the bus to the Moran. Do not be late! All graduates must ride the bus to and from the theatre.**

**Proper attire for Baccalaureate and Commencement is required.** In addition to cap and gown,

- **Girls** should wear dresses (preferably without a collar) and dark shoes (preferably black).
- **Boys** are expected to wear white or light dress shirts **with** collar; dark, solid-color **dress** slacks; a **tie**; and **dark dress** shoes and **socks**.
- **NO ONE MAY WEAR BACKLESS SHOES!**

Your graduation from high school is a ceremony that comes only once in a person’s lifetime. It is an event that you will remember with a great deal of nostalgia for the rest of your life. We attempt, to the best of our ability, to make this an experience that is meaningful for **all** graduates of the School of the Arts. It is our sincere hope that you, the graduate, will help us preserve the honor and dignity of this long-awaited day.

After you **and** your parent/guardian have carefully read and signed this letter, please **detach** the form below and **return** it to the Activities Office **BY Tuesday, May 25**. Caps and gowns will be distributed on **June 3 only to eligible graduates WITH IDs** (i.e. those whose debts have been cleared and whose forms have been turned in).

I look forward to sharing this exciting time with you!

Sincerely,

Jackie H. Cornelius, Principal



**Return this portion** to the Activities Office

**NO LATER THAN May 25!**

**PRINT Senior’s Name Here** ↓

**P R I N T Parent/Guardian’s Name Here** ↓

**My signature below indicates that:**

- 1) **I have read** the attached letter.
- 2) **I understand** the instructions for DA’s Baccalaureate and Commencement.
- 3) **I agree to comply** with all requests and policies.

**SENIOR SIGNATURE** Here ↓

**PARENT SIGNATURE** Here ↓