



SOUTHWEST PERFORMING ARTS

LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

Recent weeks have witnessed excellence in our SWMS Performing Arts Departments, and I'd like to take a moment to recognize our colleagues. Ms. Smith and Ms. Chiusano (and their other minions) produced on an excellent musical in *The Lion King*. I was so impressed by the student performers this year. Brava, ladies!

The Band, under Mr. Holmes direction, had a first for Southwest Middle School: the Band attended state Music Performance Adjudication and earned straight superior ratings from all judges for an overall rating of Superior. There is no better way to start a legacy of excellence!

The Orchestra attended our Music Performance Adjudication last week and also earned straight Superior ratings for an overall rating of Superior. The following day, the Orchestra had a double show performance in Union County, participating in a Festival that introduces the science of sound to 2nd graders; all the other performers in the county were high schoolers, so quite above and beyond for middle schoolers!

These achievements are the culmination of a year's worth of work, getting these students ready for public performance and assessment, as well as countless hours before school, after school, nights and weekends of planning, attending meetings, rehearsing groups, working with individual students--the list goes on.

I'm proud to be a part of such an outstanding team. We're fortunate here at Southwest to be in a place where the arts are so strong. That opportunity isn't available in every locale, but it makes our kids better human beings and gives them a chance for great achievement and pride. We welcome you to attend our spring performances to see/hear the students in action.

Kristen Wright
Orchestra Director



Young Simba and Mufasa discuss becoming king.