**HISD students to receive jazz, vocal lessons from Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz**

**What:** The Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz will provide jazz band and vocal workshops next week to students at four schools in the Houston Independent School District. HISD is one of only six school districts nationwide selected this year to receive a “peer-to-peer” jazz education program from the institute, a nonprofit education organization that presents public school music education programs for students around the world.

As part of the program, internationally renowned jazz recording artists and gifted music students from the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts will work one-on-one with HISD students at Pershing Middle School, Waltrip and Westbury high schools, and the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. Jazz workshops will be conducted for each school’s jazz band and choir, allowing music students from Los Angeles and Houston to learn from one another.

In addition to the workshops, the institute will host a kick-off school assembly featuring a presentation on jazz in America, the American values jazz represents, and the importance of finding a passion early in life.

*Media is invited to attend the kickoff school assembly, which is scheduled for 11 a.m. and will include a musical performance. Media should arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the assembly to interview students, administrators, and representatives from the institute. Following the assembly, students will participate in a jazz workshop, which is being led by the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz and is also open to the media. The jazz workshop begins at 12:30 p.m.*

**Who:**HISD Board of Education Trustee **Anna Eastman**, HISD Chief Academic Officer **Andrew Houlihan**, Waltrip High School Principal **Dale Mitchell**, Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz Vice President of Education & Curriculum **J.B. Dyas**, jazz recording artists **Don Braden** and **Lisa Henry**, City of Houston Director of Education **Juliet Stipeche**, and Waltrip students

**When:                  Monday, Feb. 29, 2016, 11 a.m.**

**Where:** Waltrip High School, 1900 W. 34th St., 77018