

Orange High performing artists return to Kids in Concert event

Students at Orange High School will take the stage next week and participate once again in the annual Kids in Concert program, an event designed to highlight New Jersey's urban public schools.

Kids in Concert was created by the Education Law Center, the Newark-based organization that has worked toward education equality for students in New Jersey public school districts. Officials with the center said their accomplishments include the formation of universal preschool and school construction programs through the landmark *Abbott v. Burke* case.

Since 2004, Orange High School has been selected to participate in Kids in Concert. This year, the select chorus, Voices In Harmony, under the direction of David Milnes; and the Orange High Dance Ensemble, under the direction of Tosha Brown, will perform March 24 at Long Branch High School at 6:30 p.m.

The theme of this year's concert is "Holidays Throughout the Year." Officials with the Orange School District said the Orange High groups were selected based on the quality of their performance, their creativity in reflecting the concert theme and the type of performance.

This year will mark the 13th anniversary of the Kids in Concert program. Officials with the Education Law Center said they believe it was a good way to highlight the talents and accomplishments of students in New Jersey urban school districts.

Every urban public school is invited to enter the program in October by creating an artistic interpretation reflecting the theme of the show and what it means to them. The applications and videos are reviewed by a selection committee, and groups are selected based on quality, creativity and type of performance.

By January, the committee notifies the selected participants. The program's artistic director then works with the students to develop and stage the concert event. Before the concert, participating students meet each other and rehearse the show. A final rehearsal occurs on the day of the concert.

Center officials said participants work with little instruction outside of school. They credit school instructors with bringing student talent to the stage in performances ranging from dance groups and soloists to performance poets.