



Glenbard Township High School District 87

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Grants will bring poetry band to Glenbard South

Students at Glenbard South High School will gain an unusual insight into the rhythm of poetry through an artist in residence program later this month.

David Hernandez and his poetry band, Street Sounds, will visit Glenbard South on Wednesday, April 13, in the school's theater. April is National Poetry Month, and April 11 to 17 is "Young People's Poetry Week".

Street Sounds is a poetry with music performance ensemble founded by Hernandez. The group's music ranges from Afro-Cuban rhythms, to pop, to folk and classical elements to original urban jazz. The group merges contemporary social and cultural themes with warmth and humor.

The funding for this event came from a \$500 P.E.P. (Partnership for Educational Progress) grant from Glenbard Township High School District 87 and a \$700 grant from the Illinois Arts Council with additional funding from Glenbard South's learning resource center. Glenbard South assistant librarian Noreen Malone wrote and applied for both grants.

Glenbard South invited Hernandez to inspire students as it hosts its 3rd annual Poetry Slam at 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 20, in the school's learning resource center. This is his second appearance at Glenbard South.

Hernandez has been nominated to Poet Laureate of the State of Illinois, 2003. He was the first recipient of the Gwendolyn Brooks Outstanding Poet of Illinois Award, 1988. He wrote the inauguration poem for Chicago Mayor Harold Washington and was commissioned by the City of Chicago to write and recite an original poem commemorating the city's 150th birthday in 1987.

The Illinois Arts Council's residency program provides support for Illinois artist residencies in schools and communities statewide. The Illinois Arts Council is a state agency.

Posted: April 4, 2005