

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***ArtFest in the West* to Raise Needed Funds for Arts Education
in Western Albemarle Co. Public Schools**

***Non-Profit Organization Arts in Western Education's "Out of This World
ArtFest in the West" Starring Student Performances, Art Exhibits, Silent
Auction & Free Family Fun!***

(Charlottesville, VA) -- Arts students, parents and teachers in Albemarle County schools will be holding the 6th Annual **ArtFest in the West** fundraiser, on **Friday, March 2, 2018, from 6:00pm-9:00pm, in the Western Albemarle High School (WAHS) cafeteria.**

The event is both a fundraiser for arts programs in the schools and a showcase of student talent. The theme for this year's ArtFest is "Out of This World." Families can expect stellar kids' activities, decorations, delicious food and a silent auction with loads of items of universal appeal. Most importantly, the event will star student artists and their work in vocal and instrumental music, fine arts, photography, creative writing and drama.

The event is organized by the non-profit group Arts in Western Education (AWE). The goal for the event is to raise \$10,000 for arts education in the six Western Albemarle County public schools: Murray, Meriwether Lewis, Crozet and Brownsville Elementary Schools, Henley Middle School and Western Albemarle High School.

The event will culminate with a preview of the WAHS musical "Legally Blonde." Jim Lambert, President of the AWE Board of Directors, says "this event is growing each year because it focuses on the kids, their talent, and the whole family coming and having fun together, celebrating and raising money for arts projects in our schools. Our arts programs are growing but the county's budget isn't keeping up. We need to make up the difference to support our student artists."

There is no entrance fee for the event. Families with kids of all ages are encouraged to take part in a wide range of activities including ceramics, hands-on arts and crafts, a photo booth, great food and incredible performances, including those by these student groups:

- Meriwether Lewis Elementary Music Students
- Henley Middle School Jazz Band
- WAHS Jazz Band
- WAHS Choir
- WAHS Orchestra
- WAHS Ceramics
- Preview of the WAHS Musical "Legally Blonde"

There will be a Silent Auction, with funds going directly to arts programs in the schools. Families will be able to bid on music lessons, original art, gift certificates to local spas and restaurants and more. ArtFest in the West is sponsored by Western Albemarle County Schools' Fine Arts Departments and Arts in Western Education, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Any businesses interested in being a business sponsor for ArtFest or donating to the Silent Auction are urged to contact Jennifer Aminuddin at the number above.