

Congratulations Class of

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## Ruleville Middle School participates in TMIJ Blues and Jazz Concert

On April 21, 2009, Ruleville Middle School's honor students and Mrs. Shawandra Walker, Ruleville Middle School's 2008-2009 Teacher of the Year, attended and participated in the Blues and Jazz Concert at Ruleville Central High School. The concert was featured by the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz from Washington, D.C. The students played the jazz and blues light concert tempo ensemble, "Saxy Cat Blues" by Composer, John O'Reilly for the visitors, and they were impressed with their musical growth. The students were also introduced to various great artists such as Thelonious Monk Jr., Grammy nominee, Antonio Hart, 3-time Grammy Winner, Keb' Mo', Lisa Henry, Richard Johnson, Derek Nievergelt, and Otis Brown III. Ruleville Middle School honor students make up over 3/4 of the Blues and Jazz program sponsored by the Institute. Above all else, the RMS students really enjoyed when they were encouraged to play a number along with the members of the Thelonious Monk Institute by Saxophonist, Antonio Hart.



Pictured: RMS students, Dianequa Coleman (6th Grader/Principal List student), Josilette Davis (6th Grader), and Olivia Clark (6th Grader/Supt Scholar) practice before performing in front of representatives from Delta State University Music Department and the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz from Washington, D.C.

## RMS students cherish their involvement in the Institute

Edwards' students had been working hard to master the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz, Blues and Jazz curriculums designed for fifth, eighth, and eleventh grade public schools. The Blues and Jazz program traces the blues and its vital importance to American history and culture. The program also shows how the music became one of the greatest influences on Jazz. Principal Edwards said he is looking forward to expanding his student's knowledge of the arts next year as well as encourage them to become better at their craft or using their instrument of choice. Thelonious Monk Jr. said, "I want to inspire what's possible in Delta's children. I want them to reach their full potential. They are unique and important to us. If we, Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz, pull this off, then we will make the world a better place. That's why we will keep coming back to Ruleville, Mississippi."



Pictured is RMS Principal Darron Edwards discussing RMS student's involvement in the Thelonious MONK Institute Blues and Jazz Program at Ruleville Central High with Mark Pett, District Consultant, Drummer, Otis Brown, III and Sarah Wilson, National Director of Education Outreach.