

King School Musicians Dream of the Future

Anthony Branker, PHS class of 1976, is a composer, educator, scholar, conductor, and performer. Dr. Branker attended Princeton University where he received his B.A. in Music and a Certificate in African American Studies. His graduate studies took him to the University of Miami for a Master of Music in Jazz Pedagogy and later to Columbia University, Teachers College where he received the degrees of Master of Education and Doctor of Education; both with specialties in Music and Music Education.

Dr. Branker invited Mrs. Liz Harrington's 5th Grade Gifted and Talented Ensemble to collaborate in the creation of his new composition *Our Dreams*. Students were asked to write about, and discuss, their dreams for the future of our country. They travelled to Systems Two Recording Studio in Brooklyn, NY, where their narrations were professionally recorded, mixed, and edited. Early in 2014, Dr. Branker's jazz ensemble, *Anthony Branker & Word Play*, will record the instrumental music for this project.

Dr. Branker and Mrs. Harrington have been close friends since they began working together with the Piscataway High School Superchief Marching Band in the early 1980s. Both attended PHS, and both credit their high school teachers, Bruce Bradshaw, and Joseph Mundi, with fostering their love of music and teaching.

Mrs. Harrington and her students are excited to hear the final product of this collaboration, and are very grateful to Dr. Branker, and the Princeton University Committee on Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences, who funded this trip.