



Press Release Rio Rancho Public Schools

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Band Director Named for Cleveland High School

Keith Gilbert has more than Georgia on his mind these days – he’s planning his move to Rio Rancho.

Gilbert, currently Director of Bands and Music Technology for Shiloh High School in Suwanee, Georgia in the Gwinnett County Public Schools, is the choice for band director at Rio Rancho’s new Cleveland High School. His charge: to build a band program on par with the award-winning programs at Rio Rancho High School and the other top band programs in New Mexico.

During the past decade, Gilbert has been responsible for building and improving band programs in several Georgia school districts. He has served as Director of Bands for Monroe Area High School in Monroe, GA, Newton High School in Covington, GA, Forest Park High School in Jonesboro, Georgia, and Hephzibah Comprehensive High School and East Augusta Middle School in Augusta, Georgia. He has also performed with a number of community bands and coordinated participation in a wide variety of community events. Gilbert holds a Master of Arts degree in Instruction from Central Michigan University, and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Communications from Valdosta State University in Valdosta, Georgia.

The district interviewed six applicants for the position. The other finalists were Matthew Casarez, Assistant Band Director at Rio Rancho HS, Nathan Matherne, band director at Roswell Goddard High School; Bruce Mullen, Associate Band Director from Gallup; Sean Silva, Director of Bands at Las Cruces Oñate High School; and Robin Stephens, Director of Bands for the Roscoe Independent School district in Roscoe, TX.

V. Sue Cleveland High School will open in August 2009 as a grade 9-11 school; new high schools do not open with a senior class. It will become a grade 9-12 school in 2010-11.