

July 29, 2015

Friends and Family of Helix Instrumental Music,

As many of you know, Helix Director of Instrumental Music, Mr. Mitchel Way, has resigned his position and will be moving to Westview High School in Poway. I had the opportunity this morning to speak with the students regarding Mr. Way's move and to share my perspective and commitment to them and the program. I would like to share with all of you, as well.

First, let me reiterate that Mr. Way, along with Mr. Bengé, the other assistants, and HIMA, have done a marvelous job in the last five years of bringing the Helix Instrumental Music Program back to prominence. The students in our program are amazing and their efforts and talents are well recognized throughout the San Diego area and California. This will continue!

I assure all of you that we are already looking for and will find an outstanding individual to lead the program. While I am working with former director and San Diego County VAPA Coordinator Russ Sperling to do so, we will not hire just anyone to "fill a seat." If a quality candidate is not available within the next several weeks, we will continue our search until the "right" person is found.

Over the next several weeks, the band will be in the capable hands of Mr. Mike Bengé and the other assistants. We will have a credentialed teacher here to meet our fiduciary responsibilities during class times.

In my 31 years in public education, and 21 as an administrator, I have been through similar situations on several occasions. In each case, the dedicated students, parents, staff, and community have come together and made what has felt like a negative turn into a positive. I am confident that Helix Instrumental Music will do the same.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Lewis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "L".

Dr. Mike Lewis

Executive Director

Helix Charter High School