

experience KO KNUDSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Award-winning KO Knudson Middle School, Academy of Creative Arts & Technology to host fourth annual *Best of KO Gala & Silent Auction*

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KO Knudson Middle School, Academy of Creative Arts & Technology is hosting its fourth annual *Best of KO Gala & Silent Auction* on Monday, October 21, 2019, at 6 pm inside the school's 400-seat theatre on Atlantic Street. The event will showcase the artistry and collaboration of its students, teachers, and staff while raising money for its programs.

Principal Lezlie Koepp envisioned the event during the 2016-2017 school year. "I was dazzled by the amazing talent our students and teachers possessed and wanted to begin the tradition of celebrating our work with our community. KO is a school that is sought-after by families around the school district; we have over 1500 students apply for approximately 600 seats every year. However, I think we are one of our district's best kept secrets from a community standpoint. I want to widen our reach and build stronger community connections for the important work we do."

Local broadcaster, Nate Tannenbaum, will host the showcase and Kelly Clinton Holmes and Elisa Fiorillo, are also set to perform. "We are so fortunate to have these amazing performers donate their talent and time to inspire our students and our community," said event chair and Choir Director, Amy Symes. "It is humbling and exciting to have them be a part of our event." Audience members will have the opportunity to enjoy additional entertainment from the band, orchestra, choir, dance, mariachi, ballet folklorico, and theatre students with elements of the visual arts programs on display. Tickets are \$10 and gain the audience access to hors d'oeuvres, the silent auction, and the performing arts showcase. Auction items range from free music lessons, dance lessons, dinners, tickets to 21 Pilots, and more.

KO Knudson became a school-within-a-school magnet school in 1997, making it one of the first magnet schools in the Clark County School District. With over 1,300 students enrolled, KO offers ten different pathways in the performing and visual arts for students to find their voice and pursue their passions. All students, whether zoned or magnet, participate in high-quality arts and academic experiences. KO Knudson has a high English Language Learner population, with a predominantly Hispanic demographic. Test scores are consistently high, validating the staff's focus on arts integration and the collective commitment to high expectations.

KO Knudson recently received two national awards for its excellent programs. The school was honored by the National Arts School Network in October 2017, with its Arts Integration Award. The Magnet Schools of America Association recently named KO Knudson a Magnet School of Distinction. The award will be presented to the school at the annual Magnet Schools of America Conference this April.

To purchase tickets, donate, or bid on auction items go to <https://www.knudsonms.org/>.
