

Bluebird Arts & Education Alliance Helping Make Highlands A Cultural Venue for Northern Kentucky
By Bill Thomas

Highlands High School English teacher Chuck Keller is thrilled with progress being made by the Bluebird Arts & Education Alliance.

“We’re uniting the school, businesses, parents and community together to bring in high quality entertainment at Highlands High School,” said Keller. “The goal is to make Highlands a cultural venue for all of Northern Kentucky. We are striving to be a self-sufficient organization that promotes the arts.”

The Alliance has already partnered with the Kentucky Symphony Orchestra and with Playhouse in the Park.

“I started a conservation two years ago with James Cassidy, conductor of the Kentucky Symphony Orchestra, and the partnership we’ve formed with the orchestra is very exciting. Just last week the Kentucky Symphony Orchestra performed two shows in our Performing Arts Center for grade school students from all over Northern Kentucky. The orchestra will also perform for all ages throughout the winter at Highlands.”

In addition, the Kentucky Symphony Orchestra will offer its services to vocal music and band students at Highlands High School. James Cassidy will talk to students about music history, and students will be able to sit in on the orchestra’s rehearsals.

The partnership with Playhouse in the Park will bring the 3-man show “Cyrano” to Highlands High School on Saturday, January 30 at 3:00 p.m. The performance is open to the public. Cyrano is a unique adaptation of the French classic Cyrano de Bergerac and uses only three actors and one musician to retell a romantic and poetic story in a refreshing new setting. The show is geared to ages 10 and up.

“We will also be bringing in musical acts as well,” said Keller. “We want to bring in rock, bluegrass, jazz and contemporary music and we want to include local talent as well as nationally-known acts. WNKU is looking into the new Blackbox Theatre at Highlands for its live concerts.”

The Bluebird Arts & Education Alliance will also be sponsoring a speaker series that will include local and nationally known writers and artists.

With nearly 1,000 seats in the new Performing Arts Center, Highlands High School has the potential to become the gem of Northern Kentucky when it comes to celebrating the arts.

“We hope to use profits from our concerts to bring in speakers and guest artists,” said Keller. “At this time we’re looking for financial backers to help get us started. If any businesses or families are interested in making a contribution, they can contact me at the high school.”