

*News Release from Mayland Early College High School  
Submitted by Liz Silvers, Early College Liaison*

### **Early College High School Student Treated to Christmas Concert**

What better way to begin the holiday season but with a concert featuring the Johnson City Symphony Orchestra. On Wednesday, December 2, the students of Mayland Early College High School (MECHS) traveled to Freedom Hall in Johnson City, Tennessee to enjoy a Christmas concert performed by the Johnson City Symphony Orchestra.

Elaine Wyatt, Guidance Counselor with MECHS, organized and chaperoned the trip. “The performance by the Johnson City Symphony Orchestra provides a wonderful and unique opportunity for students to see and hear an orchestra, perhaps for the first time,” said Wyatt. “Seeing the performance in this concert hall, with staging, lighting, costumes, amplification and formal dress is an experience that will not soon be forgotten.”

The Johnson City Symphony Orchestra has grown into a seventy piece orchestra since its inception in 1969. The program is an enriching and rewarding educational experience for students and provides an opportunity for the continued development and awareness of the diversity of the arts in their lives.

The program, which was free for all students, included holiday music such as *March of the Toys* by Victor Herbert, *The Nutcracker* by Peter Tchaikovsky and *The Many Moods of Christmas* by Robert Russell Bennett just to name a few. The event was also tied to music in that it provided an in-depth study guide to better understand what the teens were listening to at the time.

According to Wyatt, “As a counselor, I try pull together events like this regularly for the kids in Early College to make them more well rounded. Exposure to the arts, especially when affordable, provides learning opportunities that must be explored.”

For more information concerning Mayland Early College High School, call (828) 765-7351, ext. 301.