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# Retirement party is planned for popular former music department head at Milton High School

Parents and students of retiring former Milton District High School music department head Laurie Walker have arranged an evening to celebrate his gift of music

Monday at Georgetown Alliance Church. "Mr. Walker" as he's known to thousands of students, is hanging up his baton after 33 years of teaching music.

His last eight years have been spent at Stewarttown Middle School in Georgetown, where he taught music to thousands of grade 6, 7 and 8 students.

Over the past eight years, he has, with assistance from other teachers and volunteers, conducted the choir, the concert band, the jazz band and produced fabulous concerts.

Mr. Walker started playing piano at age 3 and began to play professionally at age 16. He continued his studies, majoring in piano and received a bachelor of music



Laurie Walker

from the University of Toronto.

After teaching at several schools in Toronto and Peel boards, he became head of the music department at then Milton High School for five years (1974-79).

He came to Stewarttown in the fall of 1993.

"It has been the most wonderful place to end a career," said Mr. Walker. "The parent and community support is fantastic and the kids are so talented."

All students, past and present, parents and friends of Mr. Walker are invited to attend the celebration.

An informal series of musical presentations by the Stewarttown jazz band, choir and former students will be followed by refreshments and a chance to offer personal congratulations to Mr. Walker.

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