



# News Release

## Office of Communications

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Normandy High School fall production examines neighborhood violence, community healing

In his 12 years of teaching, Duane M. Foster has attended seven funerals of former students –and has begun to wonder:

“How do we start a conversation around why so many of our young men are killing each other?” said Foster, fine arts coordinator for the Normandy Schools Collaborative.

Foster surmised that the most effective way to spark frank dialogue and healing within the community is through the arts, which he says is the district’s strongest asset. The Normandy High School Drama Club will soon present its fall play production “Zooman and the Sign” by Charles Fuller. Though produced more than 30 years earlier, Foster, said the play will address relevant themes.

“Senseless and violent killings in our own communities, the fear that overwhelms many witnesses, and the unending struggle of the bereaving family as they come to grips with the reality of their loss,” he explained.

The play kicks off with a performance for Normandy 7th-8th Grade students on Thursday, November 16 at 10 a.m., and a high school matinee on Friday, November 17 at 8:45 a.m. General public shows will take place on Friday, November 17, and Saturday, November 18 at 7 p.m. All performances will be held at Normandy High School’s Little Theater in East Hall, located at 6701 St. Charles Rock Rd.

In “Zooman and the Sign,” a community mourns the loss of Jinny, a 12-year-old girl, killed during a gang shoot-out. Shuron Hunter, a sophomore at Normandy High School, plays Jinny’s brother “Victor” – a character Shuron said he personally identifies with.

“One of my friends lost his brother. They were really going through the motions. It was crazy. I hated to see him like that,” Shuron recalled. “Like how he felt, that’s how I try to be when I’m playing ‘Victor.’”

The play will feature a panel discussion that delves into what makes us and breaks us as a community, which at its foundation, is trust.

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“Our lesson, as a community, is listening and trusting one another,” Foster said, who graduated from Normandy High. “That’s what I’m trying to create with this.”

*This production is rated PG-13 for language. Student tickets are \$5; adult tickets are \$7. For more information, visit the Normandy High School page at [www.normandysc.org](http://www.normandysc.org).*

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CAPTION: The Normandy High School production of Zooman and the Sign will look at community violence and how it affects a grieving family.