

Press from:

The New Providence School District
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Subject: **New Providence School District awards Certificates of Excellence in Art and Music**

The New Providence School District was pleased to recognize the 2022/2023 school year recipients of the Certificate of Excellence in Arts and Music at the Board of Education meeting on Thursday, April 27, 2023. Students who excel in art and design routinely think “outside the box” to create new and exciting works. These skills in creativity and innovation are essential for success in college and in the workplace. Students who excel in music exhibit a high level of motivation and work ethic to develop their talents. Those who perform in ensembles become outstanding team members and masters at collaboration.

The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, a national competition, awards regional recognition to students who exhibit originality, technical skill, and emergence of a personal vision through their works. For the year 2023, over 4,000 works of art were submitted in the Northern New Jersey region. This year, high school sophomore Lily Liu was awarded an Honorable Mention for her two photographs, “Dancing Tree” and “The Flying Flamenco Bailaora”, and a Silver Key Award for her photo, “Braids”. We also honor freshman student Maggie Liu who was awarded an Honorable Mention for her photo “All About Ham”. Also receiving Honorable Mention for photography is junior Steven Parker for his work “Mash of Cultures through Souls”. Finally, we recognize two seniors who have both been awarded a Silver Key Award for their work: Isabella Torsiello for her “Untitled” mixed media self-portrait and Thomas Kaspereen for his drawing “Skull Reflection”.

New Providence takes pride in providing opportunities for young musicians to fully develop their musical potential within the school program, as well as in auditioned honors ensembles. The New Jersey Music Educators Association divides the state into three regions. The central region, CJMEA, sponsors auditioned Honors Bands, Orchestras, and Choirs at the intermediate and high school levels every year. Hundreds of students throughout the region, who are sponsored by their home school music teachers, prepare and audition. Only the highest scoring applicants are accepted. The New Jersey Association for Jazz Education (NJAJE) provides similar performance opportunities for students who audition and are accepted into their Honor Jazz Bands and Jazz Choirs.

This year, Daniel Ruzicka and Lauren Venturella were selected for the CJMEA High School Symphonic Band; Ronan Flanagan, Julia Halldorson, Jasmyn Srinivasan, and Emma Timpone

were selected for the CJMEA High School Chorus and Michael Tan, Natalie Tom, and Lillian Yu were selected for the CJMEA Intermediate Orchestra. Audrey Cai was selected for CJMEA Intermediate Wind Ensemble and Daniel Ruzicka and Michael Tan were selected for the NJAJE Region II Junior High Jazz Band. Last year, Audrey Lee was selected for CJMEA Intermediate Symphonic Band.

Along with regional ensembles, the New Jersey Music Educators Association (NJMEA) sponsors auditioned all-state honors ensembles at the elementary, middle, and high school levels every year. Hundreds of students throughout the entire state, who are sponsored by their home school music teachers, prepare and audition. Only the highest scoring applicants are accepted. Membership is hard-won and prestigious. In collaboration with NJMEA, the New Jersey chapter of the American Choral Director's Association (NJACDA) sponsors auditioned all-state honor choirs at the elementary and junior high school levels every year.

This year, Ronan Flanagan and Emma Timpone were selected for NJMEA High School Mixed Chorus; Samvit Singhal was selected for NJMEA High School Jazz Combo and Michael Tan and Natalie Tom were selected for NJMEA Intermediate Orchestra. Ten students – Albert Chen, Alex Krautheim, Samyukta Krishnan, Maria Lopez Kuri, Hannah Priolo, Nitya Raimugia, Sophia Scott, Siena Shah, Daniel Yoo, and Rachel Zack were selected for the NJ Junior High Honor Choir; and Shreya Rao and Akshat Sharma were selected for the NJ Elementary All-State Honor Choir.

On behalf of the entire Marching Band ensemble, Drum Majors Samvit Singhal and Ronan Flanagan along with Color Guard Captain Carmen Houtsma are representing the 120 members of the New Providence High School Marching Band. These students, along with their peers, worked each Wednesday evening from the end of June, 2022 through daily rehearsals beginning on August 8, 2022 in order to learn and perform this year's field production entitled "FORM-ation". The band competed in USBands and finished in 1st place in Group 5A at The Ludwig-Musser Classic held at MetLife Stadium on Saturday, October 8, 2022, 1st place in Group 5A at New Jersey State Championships at South Brunswick High School on Saturday, October 29, 2022, and 1st place at A-Class National Championships at J. Birney Crum Stadium in Allentown Pennsylvania on Saturday, November 5, 2022.

All of these students have earned special recognition for excellence in the arts or music performance. New Providence is very proud of their achievement and encourages them to continue with their arts and music education.