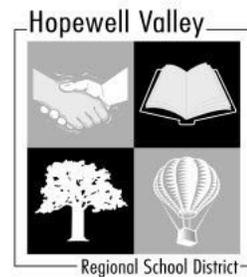


Hopewell Valley Central High School Bands

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David Schwartz, Director of Bands

daidschwartz@hvrstd.org

Thursday, March 5th

Dear Students and Parents,

We're just a few weeks away from our performance at the CJMEA (Central Jersey Music Educators Association) Concert Band Festival on Tuesday, March 17th at Summit High School.

The CJMEA State Concert Band Festival is in its 18th year of existence and provides an opportunity for bands in the state to perform for their peers, listen to other band programs in our area, and receive feedback from renowned college and university professors. The NJ Music Educators Association divides New Jersey into three geographical regions. Each region hosts their own concert band festival. Region II, our region, will be hosting bands over the course of three evenings, March 17th, 18th, and 19th. The top four rated bands from each region are selected to perform at the NJ State Band Gala, a prestigious honor. This year, we will be one of 26 bands participating in the Region II festival (see attached for a full schedule for the festival).

This adjudicated festival performance is our equivalent of a championship sporting event, a marching band competition, or jazz band festival. The choral program participates in a similar event entitled the Roxbury Choir Invitational. It is an opportunity for our band students to be recognized for their outstanding work and to see other students from the area perform.

All schools participating that night must arrive prior to 6:30 to watch other performances and are required to stay through the last performance. Ratings of Bronze, Silver, and Gold are given to bands based on their performances that evening. We've received Bronze Ratings, and as recently as 2016 and 2017 we've received ratings of Silver and Gold, and recognition for Outstanding Percussion section.

Students are asked to make arrangements with jobs, sports, clubs, etc. in order to be on time for our departure. All students are asked to travel with us by bus unless there are extenuating circumstances which must be communicated to Mr. Schwartz no later than Thursday, March 12th at 3pm. This trip is an exciting endeavor that requires a balanced instrumentation for us to perform our best. As part of our curriculum, this performance is required of all students, like our concert performances.

A detailed itinerary is enclosed along with additional information for the evening.

As always, please be in touch with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David J. Schwartz".

David J. Schwartz