

Press from:

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Subject: **New Providence School District awards Certificates of Excellence in the Arts**

The New Providence School District was pleased to recognize the 2021/2022 school year recipients of the Certificate of Excellence in Arts and Music at the Board of Education meeting on Monday, April 25, 2022. 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 2022 year, 4,000 works of art were submitted in the Northern New Jersey region. NPMS senior Gregory Genualdi was awarded an Honorable Mention for his still life drawing “Still Life of Pewter Tea Set.” Maggie Liu, a student at NPMS, was awarded a Silver Key (second place) for her painting “Maine Lobster Boat in Sunset” as well as an Honorable Mention for her work “With You, Till the End.”

Maggie was also recognized for her writing achievement during the 2021/2022 school year. Maggie took part in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards’ national writing competition. She won the gold key (first place) for her work “The Fever of 1966.” Gold key winners in the northern New Jersey Region become finalists in the national competition.

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 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, NPMS senior Molly McPoland was selected for the CJMEA High School Symphonic Band; sophomore Ronan Flanagan was selected for the CJMEA High School Mixed Choir; and AWR 6<sup>th</sup> grader Audrey Cai was selected for the CJMEA Intermediate Symphonic Band. Samvit

Singhal, a junior at NPHS, was selected for NJAJE Region II Senior Jazz Band; and NPMS students Michael Tan and Daniel Ruzicka were selected for the NJAJE Region II Junior High Jazz 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 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, senior Molly McPoland was also selected for NJMEA High School Symphonic Band. Twelve students, Amisha Agarwal, Jayden Carreno, Brynn Hageman, Julia Halldorson, Anika Jolly, Samyukta Krishnan, Anabella Lopez, Maria Lopez Kuri, Saniya Malik, Siena Shah, Daniel Yoo, and Rachel Zack, were selected for the NJ Junior High Honor Choir. Five students were selected for the NJ Elementary All-State Honor Choir: they are Neeve Canniffe, Courtney Halldorson, Zoe Lazarus, Grace Mundy, and Shreya Rao.

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.

