

February 12, 2014

To the Superintendent of Schools:

It was a pleasure to serve the music education community and the outstanding orchestra students from your school district through the Pennsylvania Music Educator's Association District 2 Band Festival held Youngsville High School, February 5-7.

Ridgway Area MS/HS
1403 Hill St.
PO Box 447
Ridgway, PA 15853

Phone: 814-773-3164 x3221

As the district president of the of the state's professional organization which serves the music teachers in your school system at all levels, I feel it important to thank you and your board of directors for the support of these talented students in their participation of this festival and give you as stake holders a brief report of the events.

160 students from 39 schools participated. Each student's performance on the music to be prepared ahead of time was assessed and scored on a rubric that was approved by PMEA and is aligned with PA Standards 9.1.12. The results of this assessment are used to rank the students and advance the top scoring students to the PMEA Region II Band.

As seems to be a recurring theme this winter, Mother Nature once again proved to us her power and gave us the opportunity to witness our weather contingency plan at work. While it is our policy for students to audition upon arrival, in order to ensure student safety we instituted a weather contingency plan several years ago that, in case of weather related issues just as we incurred on Wednesday, Feb. 5, no one should feel the need to travel in unsafe conditions for fear of their students missing the opportunity to audition. I have attached a copy of the weather contingency plan we have in place for your reference as most school districts have students at different levels, traveling to PMEA events as many as twelve times in a school year.

The Principal, Mr. Philip Knapp and Assistant Principal, Ms. MaryAnn Mead of Youngsville High School, were extremely helpful as the scenarios for auditions were changing throughout the day on Wednesday due to schools not being able to travel.. Their efforts in trying to find enough vacant rooms throughout the morning on Thursday to allow us to hold auditions during the school day if needed was very appreciated.

A clinic for the directors was offered for ACT 48 hours on Friday, Feb. 7. The clinic dealt with editing, adding and altering percussion parts to aide directors in making adaptations to student parts to better meet individual student need. Also on Friday, Feb. 7 Ron Abate from the Pennsylvania Federation of Contest Judges, offered a clinic dealing with use of rubrics in marching band assessment and their application to the learning process. Although we were not able to get this approved for ACT 48 it was a very informative and practical session.

The mission of the PMEA festival system is to promote and support quality music education, learning and performance, through collaborative interaction between professional music educators and student musicians. To insure the integrity of this mission is upheld, the directors adopted state wide rehearsal time requirement for these festivals of 14-22 hours. While a Wednesday night through Saturday afternoon festival with a Saturday afternoon concert has proven over time to provide the best experience for the students, as well as the best driving conditions for parents travelling long distances, host site resources and availability play a role in whether or not the festival can extend into Saturday afternoon. Although this festival was a shortened version with a Friday night concert, the hosts, our festival coordinator and professional development chair worked very hard to ensure our mission was fulfilled.

Thank you for your continued support of music education in our schools.

Shawn Hofmann
President, PMEA District 2
Director, Ridgway Area Band Program

Cc: Principals
Enclosure



1064 22nd Ave. N
Naples, Florida 34103

February 13, 2014

Dr. William A. Clark, Superintendent
Warren County School District
589 Hospital Drive, Suite A
Warren, PA 16365-4875

Dear Dr. Clark:

It was a pleasure to meet you at the recent District 2 PMEA band festival at Youngsville High School. I especially enjoyed your talk to the students at the Friday banquet, and also your welcome speech at the concert Friday evening.

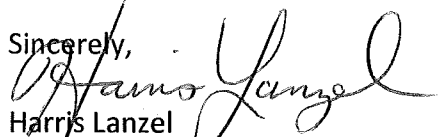
I had a wonderful experience at the Festival. The students were very well prepared and well behaved, the Youngsville High School staff, from cafeteria personnel to the administration were very accommodating and helpful, and of course Mrs. Scheid did a fantastic job planning, running and managing the festival. I am very proud of my former student, Cindy Scheid. She is a superior music educator and deeply cares about her students. Youngsville can also be very proud of her accomplishments.

Having been involved in the PMEA as a student, director, officer and guest conductor, I can attest to the fantastic opportunities and educational experiences that PMEA provides to the students and music teachers of Pennsylvania. Your school board president, Mr. Arthur Stewart, was also a former student of mine. During his high school career he was selected to participate in many PMEA events.

I thoroughly enjoyed visiting Warren County again. Everyone made me feel "right at home", except, of course, for the weather.

Thank you for your continued support of PMEA and music education in Warren County.

Sincerely,



Harris Lanzel

Music Director/Conductor
Naples Concert Band

cc: Mr. Philip Knapp
Mr. Shawn Hofmann
Mr. Arthur Stewart
Mrs. Cynthia Scheid

February 20, 2014

Dear Dr. Clark,

Ridgway Area MS/HS
1403 Hill St.
PO Box 447
Ridgway, PA 15853

Phone: 814-773-3164 x3221

I am writing to thank you and the Warren County Board of Directors both personally and on behalf of the Pennsylvania Music Educator's Association for hosting the PMEA District 2 Concert Band Festival on February 5-7.

The Youngsville High School Band Director Mrs. Cinthia Scheid did an excellent job in organizing the event. It was as well run as we have come to expect from anything Cindy has a hand in producing. The support of the band parents was fantastic and the students who assisted reflected Cindy's "nothing less than the best" approach.

I was very impressed with the attendance of the full complement of administrators at the banquet and the concert as well. It is seldom we see that level of support from the superintendant and principals of the host school. Your address to the students about them being role models was a wonderful message for the students and presented in a fashion that, I believe, "hit home" with many of the students.

Please share my gratitude with your board of directors and thank you again for your support of this opportunity for these students and directors.

Sincerely,



Shawn Hofmann
President, PMEA District 2
Director, Ridgway Area Band Program

