

## **SPIRIT OF THE MEMORIAL ORCHESTRA**

One of the joys I have as each year ends is to take a good look at our seniors and realize the impact that each one of them has made on our orchestra. When one of our students does something extraordinary – I recognize them for exemplifying the Spirit of the Memorial Orchestra.

There really isn't a list of qualifications to win this award – but one of the things that I have seen in the lives of our past winners is an unselfish desire to contribute to the community. This year – I have another to present to you – and his name is Justin Kim.

There are many things that have impressed me about Justin. The one I see every day is his musical talent. Justin is a violinist and has excelled to the top of his class. Not only are his sightreading abilities strong – but his ability to lead the section raises the standard in our orchestra. Justin has done well in competitions and has played solos with the orchestra and we have come to depend on Justin to come to class well prepared for the day's rehearsal.

As a person – Justin is equally valuable. A mature young man, Justin can feel comfortable in any crowd. His sense of humor is understated – but hilarious. He is respectful of his peers and adults – and he is respected by the same. I'm sure that he has a smile on his face right now – just as he does any time I see him. And he has demonstrated over and over that he is willing to use his talents to contribute to the community – playing in quartets at parties and church services.

But you can really see Justin's passions light up when he is able to use his creativity in putting together video presentations. Justin has created commercials for orchestra events, video recaps of our monthly newsletter and over the past few years - he has distinguished himself as one of the most sought after producers of presidential campaign videos. In this medium – Justin has shown us a different part of his creative side – and he has used it to make a significant contribution to the orchestra.

Our character theme this year has been One Pebble – One Ripple. Justin has been one of the most significant ripples we have had in a long time. And that is why I say that he is the Spirit of the Memorial Orchestra.