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News Release

Triple Play for Tenafly Middle School Band Student

*Justin Na Earns Spot in Three NJ Bands including
1st Chair in Region I Intermediate (Grade 7-9) Jazz Band*

Tenafly, NJ – May 2, 2023 – Justin Na, Tenafly Middle School (TMS) 8th grade student and trumpet player, is the first at his school (for at least the last 20 years) to audition and play for three New Jersey honor bands - the Bergen County Band, the Region 1 Intermediate Symphonic Band and the Region 1 Intermediate Jazz Band - all within the same year.

Justin's selection as 1st chair in the Region Jazz Band is especially unique for his school. Dr. Kimberly Burja, TMS band director for 18 years, commented, "Through my years here in Tenafly, I've never seen any middle school student audition into all three Honor Bands over multiple years. Justin did this in one school year, post-COVID, and this is a testament to him. He has a confidence that comes from within and it's inspirational."



About Justin Na

Justin has been attending Tenafly Public Schools since preschool, and began playing the trumpet in the 4th grade. He selected the trumpet after watching his father play the same instrument. Although Justin belongs to the Jazz Club at his middle school, joining the Region 1 Jazz Band was a new, exciting experience. "I enjoy Jazz because it's dramatic and expressive - and I love trying new things." Justin appreciates that there's always more to learn and that includes from his fellow trumpet players from other schools. "I'm just scratching the surface and I want to keep improving." Next year, he will be able to qualify for All-State and plans to audition. Beyond his love for playing the trumpet, he has an interest in Computer Science and specifically, artificial intelligence. He also plays sports including soccer and basketball, and is currently hoping to go to college in California.

About the three bands where Justin earned chair positions:

1.) **Bergen County Band:** Students across all Bergen County schools, grades 7-9, audition each October for acceptance into an approximately 75 piece concert band ensemble. **Justin was 5th chair in Bergen County Band.** <https://mebci.org/>

2.) **Region 1 Bands:** Students from schools across northern New Jersey (including Bergen, Essex and Hudson counties) can audition for two Region bands: a.) The Symphonic Winds, for the top scoring students and b.) The Concert Band, for the next highest scoring students. **Justin is 2nd Chair in the Symphonic Winds Band** (out of 16 who made it and out of 37 who auditioned). <https://njsma.org/>

3.) **Region 1 Jazz Band:** Students from northern NJ audition and **Justin is 1st chair in Region Jazz Band.** <http://www.njaje.org/>

NOTE: Students are scored on playing scales, solos for their instrument and sightreading,

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