



Seneca Valley School District

Preview Story/Photo Pitch

For Immediate Release

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NOTEWORTHY SUCCESS AT PMEA ORCHESTRA

JACKSON TWP., PA (Jan. 27, 2025) -- Students in the Seneca Valley Orchestra program recently participated in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 2, 3 & 5 Orchestra under the direction of esteemed conductor Dr. Timothy Dixon.

The festival was held at Collegiate Academy in Erie from Jan. 9-11, with a culminating concert on Jan. 11. Students performed selections from Bizet, Dvorak and Sibelius. Of special note, sophomore bassist Benny James earned first chair, making Seneca Valley history as the first ever, first-chair bass!

As a result of auditions, six Seneca Valley students will advance to PMEA Western Region Orchestra in Johnstown, Pa, at the end of February. Those advancing include Elizabeth Browne, Benny James, Heath Lyon, Isabella Muthler, Jake Pieszak and Ava Platt.

Students are led by Sarah Miller and Millie Shay, secondary orchestra instructors.

Student participants:

Elizabeth Browne (11) - Violin
Cortlan Harrell (12) – Bass
Isaac Hixon (12) - French Horn
Benny James (10) – Bass
Heath Lyon (10) – Viola
Isabella Muthler (12) - Viola

Dylan Neal (11) – Violin
Jake Pieszak (12) – Violin
Ava Platt (12) – Viola
Morgan Roithner (11) – Viola
Imogen Tomo (10) – Violin
Henrique Vilas Boas Casimiro (12) - Bass