JANUARY 2026 VOLUME NO. 4

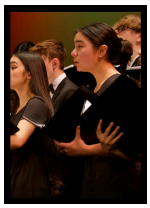
ENCORE!

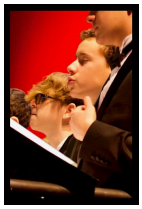
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON MUSIC DEPARMENT

CELEBRATE PERFORMANCES!

SHARING THE SOUNDS OF THE SEASON IN SCHOOL AND BEYOND!

Opportunities to perform beyond school performances requires dedication and discipline, as students balance academic responsibilities with rehearsals and practice outside of school hours. We are so proud of our students (and teachers) recent performances and we celebrate them all with you in this issue of **ENCORE!**

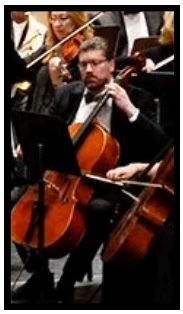




Diana Champagne and Oliver Bennet singng with the Fairfild County Children's Choir!



Iris Brady stared as Annie in the Fairfield Center Stage production. And her teachers showed up to give her a standing ovation!



Mr. Elkins performing with the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra Holiday Pops Concert.





Yuvan Jaoin performing with the National Children's Chorus on the Today Show on December 18th in NYC!



Mr. and Mrs. Congdon singing at Black Rock Church to celebrate Christmas!



White Christmas was a huge success at Trumbull Community Theater!

MUSIC AT MADISON

The 7th and 8th Grade Band
The 6th Grade Band
The Jazz Band
The 6th Grade Chorus
The 7th & 8th Grade Chorus
The Madison Singers
The Madison Orchestra
The String Ensemble
Broadway Babies Drama

IMPORTANT DATES

Here are some performances to mark in your family calendar!

- Little Mermaid Rehearsals - see google classroom for schedule.
- Broadway Babies Show - The Little Mermaid Jr - 3/11 & 3/12
- Western Regional Music Festival - 3/6-3/7
- 6th Grade Chorus -5/5 @ 6pm
- Orchestra - 5/5 @ 7:30pm
- 7th & 8th Grade Band and Jazz Band Spring Concert - 5/7 @7pm
- Grade 6 Band and Jazz Band Spring Concert- 5/12 @7pm
- 7th & 8th Grade Chorus & Madison Singers Spring Concert -5/14 @7pm
- Memorial Day Parade (7th and 8th Grade Band) - 5/25
- Music Festival Band and Orchestra Trip - 5/29
- Stepping Forth -TBA

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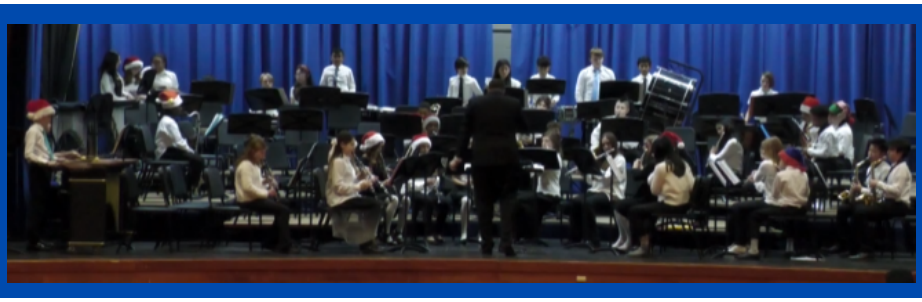
BAND TOGETHER

BAND AT MADISON

JAZZ BAND, WINTER CONCERT 2025



6TH GRADE "ADVANCED" BAND





7TH & 8TH GRADE CONCERT BAND



Members of the MMS Band perform holiday tunes at the Trumbull Tree Lighting





Tenor Saxophone Grinches

January BAND Students of the Month

6



ALEXANDRA SUCHOWIEJKO, CLARINET

7



CORA BOWCOCK, ALTO SAXOPHONE

8



ULA HARRELL, FLUTE

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Harmony HIGHLIGHTS

CHORUS AT MADISON

The Show Must Go On...

Cold and flu season hit Madison the first weeks of December this year and it raced through the school with no concern for our concerts!

A Note from Ms. Saunders...

As a music teacher you can imagine I am friends with a lot of other music teachers. And like any profession, we find ourselves supporting, advising, sharing and generally ""talking shop". I have never heard a gasp as impressive as when I stated the grand total of absences from our winter concert this year. While I thought it was thirty-six, it was actually 45! Such a disappointment when they worked for months on the music. (We missed you all!) But I am very proud of those who performed in spite of imbalanced sections and nerves. Congratulations to you all!

Trumbull High School Chamber Singers came to Madison on January 9th to perform for our 8th grade singers and answer questions about the high school music program! They sounded amazing!







Winter Choral Concert



7th & 8th Grade Chorus at the Winter Concert







The Madison Singers



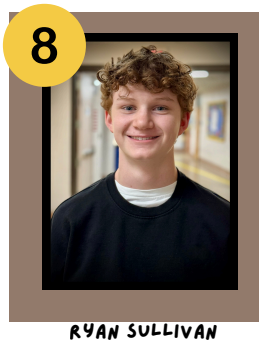
CHORUS Students of the Month JANUARY



MAYA CARRANZA



ETHAN STORMS



RYAN SULLIVAN

GREAT MUSICIANSHIP, LEADERSHIP AND POSTITIVE ATTITUDE IN CLASS!!

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THE STRINGS BEAT



WINTER CONCERT IN REVIEW

A NOTE FROM MR. ELKINS

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed a restful and enjoyable holiday break. After performing two concerts in just three weeks, the break was certainly well deserved! I am once again very proud of our students and their outstanding performance at the Winter Concert. It was wonderful to revisit several pieces we performed at String Fling, introduce a few new selections, and even add some fun eye patches for *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

Following the concert, students completed a reflection on their individual progress as well as the growth of the orchestra as a whole. Reflection is an important part of the learning process, helping students set goals for the future. These reflections will be placed in their student e-portfolios and can be shared with you during student-led conferences.

We have now begun learning new techniques and new music, so please continue to encourage regular practice at home, as both the skills and repertoire will become more challenging. Sixth-grade students will be learning specific practice strategies to make their practice time more effective, while seventh and eighth graders will be reviewing and reinforcing these strategies. As we begin the New Year, it's a great time to help students set positive practice habits and fit consistent practice into their weekly schedules.

Although May 5th—our Spring Concert—may seem far away, it will be here before we know it. Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our orchestra program.





WINTER CONCERT MOMENTS



THE STRINGS BEAT

PAGE 2

Practice TIP

Practice with a strategy—it's not always about how long students practice, but how *effectively* they use their time. Practicing with a strategy can be far more productive than practicing without one. Even a focused 10–15 minute practice session can be very effective when students use the right approach.

This month, I will be introducing a practice strategy called "chunking." With this strategy, students identify a small "chunk" of music—often just 2–3 measures—that they find challenging. They focus on practicing only that section, paying close attention to what makes it difficult. Slow, careful practice is key. Once students can play the chunk correctly five times in a row, they add it back into the larger section of music. This helps prevent mistakes from reappearing and builds confidence and accuracy.

Using strategies like chunking helps students practice smarter, build skills more efficiently, and make steady progress on more challenging music.

STRINGS Students of the Month

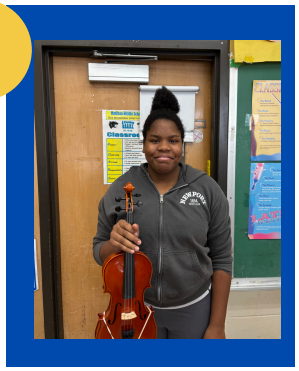
6



"What I like about orchestra is being able to work with different people."

Lea N.
Lea demonstrates excellent posture, always brings a positive attitude to class, and joined the string ensemble. Congratulations!

7



"I like how practicing makes me get better at the violin."

Sara M.
Her regular practice shows, and is always actively involved in class. Keep up the great work!

8



" I like when the whole orchestra comes together to play an energetic piece."

Mark S.
Mark is an enthusiastic student who is a positive leader in both the orchestra and the string ensemble, good job!

January

BROADWAY BABIES DRAMA

THE LITTLE MERMAID 2026

MEET THE CAST - PART 1

MEET FLOUNDER

Lizzie Rorick

- 7th grade
- Second show at Madison.
- Recently starred in Annie Warbucks the Musical with Take Part Theater in Stratford.







MEET KING TRITON

Connor Decker

- 7th grade
- Second show at Madison
- Was recently in White Christmas and Oliver!



MEET SCUTTLE

Emily Fleahman

- 8th grade
- Third show at Madison



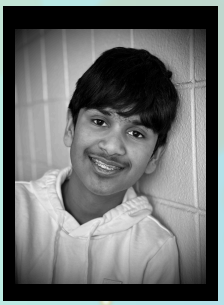


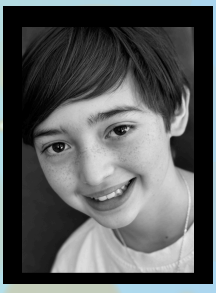


MEET FLOTSOM AND JETSOM

Parker Tedesco

- 7th grade
- Second show at Madison.





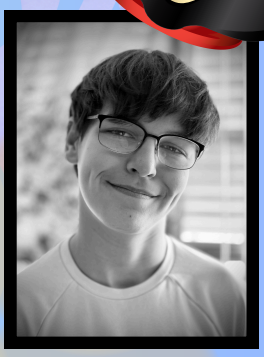
Yuvan Jain

- 8th grade
- Third show at Madison.
- Recently starred in TYA Jr's Lion King as Pumba.

MEET GRIMSBY

Xander Hamilton

- 8th Grade
- Third show at Madison
- Recently starred in TYA Jr's Lion King as Mufasa.





January happenings...

- Costumes are being designed and sewn.
- Stage scenery is being designed and built.
- Dances are being choreographed and practiced.
- Full rehearsals are happening and scenes are being blocked.
- Lines and lyrics are getting memorized!



THE CAST OF THE LITTLE MERMAID

March 11th & 12th

Tickets on sale in February

pta RELECTIONS



PTA REFLECTIONS CONTEST

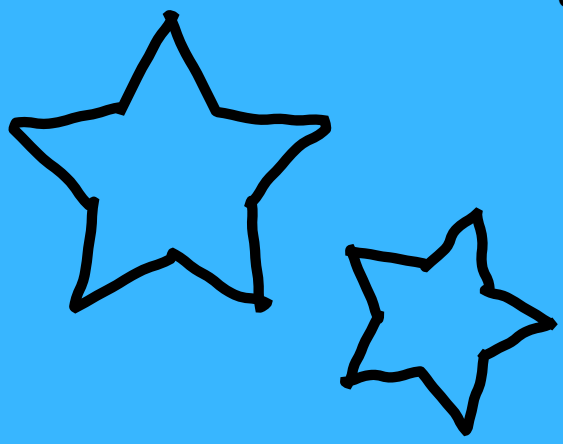
PTA Reflections is in full swing! Madison PTA proudly supports this national arts program which encourages students to create works of art based on their passions! Student artists are welcome to submit their work in the following categories:

Dance Choreography, Music Composition, Film Production, Visual Art, Photography and Literature.

This year's theme is "I Belong" and the deadline for entry submission is January 12, 2026.

All submissions are digital this year. The link can be found in the daily notice.

All Madison students who enter the contest will be put in a drawing for $25 gift cards!



DUE
JANUARY 12TH