



1516 Sycamore Street  
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18017  
**PRESS RELEASE**

## **Bethlehem Area School District Celebrates Student Musicians Selected for PMEA Festivals**

BETHLEHEM, PA, March 29, 2026 - The Bethlehem Area School District proudly recognizes the achievements of its high school student musicians who were selected to participate in Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Festivals at the District, Region, and All-State levels.

“Music plays a vital role in the district’s educational programs, supporting creativity, collaboration, discipline, and innovation,” commented Dr. Jack P. Silva, BASD Superintendent. “These experiences provide students with meaningful opportunities to grow as performers and individuals while representing their schools at the highest levels of competition.”

The Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) is a statewide nonprofit organization with more than 4,000 members dedicated to advancing music education across Pennsylvania. Established in 1933, PMEA supports music instruction and performance opportunities from early childhood through the collegiate level, as well as professionals working in music education and industry. Each year, PMEA festivals bring together outstanding student musicians selected through a rigorous audition process, showcasing some of the most talented young performers in the Commonwealth.

This year, several Bethlehem Area School District students earned selection and advancement through PMEA’s District, Region, and All-State festival levels. The district is proud to honor their hard work, dedication, and exceptional musical talent.

### **Freedom High School**

Freedom High School students selected for PMEA District, Region, and All-State Festivals include:

- **Ian Baltz** – District 10 Band and Orchestra; Region V Band and Orchestra
- **Cole Faccinetto** – District 10 Chorus Festival
- **Kathryn Ryer** – District 10 Chorus, Region V Chorus, and All-State Chorus Festivals
- **Kayden Taylor** – District 10 Chorus, Region V Chorus, and All-State Chorus Festivals
- **Maxim Tiffany** – District 10 Band, Region V Band, and All-State Wind Ensemble Festivals
- **Benett Vertel** – District 10 Band and Orchestra, Region V Band and Orchestra, and All-State Concert Festivals
- **Julius Vertel** – District 10 Band Festival
- **Mason Bowers** – District 10 Chorus Festival



## Liberty High School

Liberty High School students selected for PMEA District, Region, and All-State Festivals include:

- **Hajin Chung** – District 10 Orchestra Festival
- **Jaxson Dorsey** – District 10 Band Festival
- **Cameron Dunham** – District 10 Chorus, Region V Chorus, and All-State Chorus Festivals
- **Andrew Fortsch** – District 10 Band and Orchestra; Region V Band and Orchestra; All-State Concert Band Festivals
- **Juan Montero** – District 10 Band and Orchestra; Region V Band and Orchestra; All-State Concert Band Festivals
- **Jay Rupnik** – District 10 Band Festival

The Bethlehem Area School District congratulates these students, their families, and music educators for their commitment to excellence. Their accomplishments reflect both individual dedication and the strength of the district's music programs in providing high-quality arts education and performance opportunities.

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### Media inquiries:

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### ***About the Bethlehem Area School District***

The Bethlehem Area School District is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest school district in Pennsylvania serving nearly 13,000 culturally and economically diverse students in 22 community-based schools. The district serves five municipalities: City of Bethlehem, Bethlehem Township, Hanover Township, Freemansburg, and Fountain Hill. The district enjoys numerous community partnerships with universities, businesses, and arts providers that extend the schools' rich curricular and co-curricular offerings.