



## MAMARONECK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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### News Release

#### **MUFSD Music Department Celebrates MHS Jazz Band Awards, Record Number of Elementary/Middle School All-County Participants**

MAMARONECK, NY, March 9, 2016 – The MHS Jazz Band took 1st place this past weekend at the Sleepy Hollow Jazz Festival in partnership with Purchase College. Led by Tim Hooker, the jazz band performed in front of three distinguished judges and was recognized as the top band among nine high school bands from Westchester, Orange and Rockland Counties. The band also received awards for “Best Swing Tune”, “Best Ballad”, and “Outstanding Saxophone Section”.

“This is a big accomplishment for us, and the festival was such a meaningful experience on so many levels for every student involved,” said MHS Band Director Tim Hooker.

Mamaroneck and the other bands were critiqued on their accurate representation of stylist repertoire and use of improvisation and syncopation in their performances. The MHS Jazz Band was featured in the evening performance in the Pepsico Theatre at Purchase College.

“It’s clear that our jazz band feels a keen desire to keep the legacy and tradition of Mamaroneck alive as a top-performing jazz band, and you could certainly sense that this weekend,” remarked Mr. Hooker. “Being recognized as the top band is a nice feeling, knowing all the work we put in; however, the greatest reward is everyone coming away with so much to apply to their growth as musicians.”

Additionally, this past weekend, [more than 90 band, orchestra and chorus students](#) (a record number) from Mamaroneck participated in the All-County Festival Concert at SUNY Purchase. These students were chosen based on their audition in the fall or at the NYSSMA solo festival. They attended three rigorous rehearsals with esteemed guest conductors and put in many hours of hard work to be able to participate in these elite Westchester County music ensembles.

“We were thrilled to see a record number of our students step up to take on the extra work that is involved in being a part of All-County,” said Dina Madden, the District’s K-12 Music Coordinator. “This school year overall has been marked by such terrific electricity and excitement, with new faculty in place and expansion of our existing programs.”

The Board of Education plans to recognize and honor all students who performed at All-County during its March 15<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. The Elementary All-County Chorus singers will perform at the top of the evening, beginning at 7 pm.

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