

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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FORRESTDALE SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT TAKES TOP HONORS

Ensembles receive awards at the 2024 Music in the Parks Festival

Rumson, NJ – On Friday, May 3, the Forrestdale Senior Choir under the direction of Mr. Kyle Sheehan, and the Forrestdale Concert Band and Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Mr. John Lebitsch, performed in Jackson, NJ, as part of the 2024 *Music in the Parks Festival*. Following their performances, the groups finished their day at *Six Flags Great Adventure* where the official awards ceremony was held.

At *Music in the Parks*, each ensemble gives an adjudicated performance for prominent judges in the field of music education. Directors receive written comments, recorded comments, and scores from each judge. This year's festival featured 20 performing ensembles from 9 different schools representing New Jersey and New York.

This year's results are as follows:

- Forrestdale Senior Choir: **1st Place** with a rating of **Superior**
- Forrestdale Concert Band: **1st place** with a rating of **Excellent**
- Forrestdale Jazz Ensemble: **1st Place** with a rating of **Excellent**

In addition to the ensemble ratings, Forrestdale also received two overall awards:

- **Best Overall Middle School Choir**
- **Best Overall Middle School Concert Band**

One member of the Jazz Ensemble was also recognized with an individual award:

- **Outstanding Jazz Soloist Award** - Andrew Luiten, flugelhorn

Andrew is an 8th-grade student who plays trumpet and flugelhorn. In addition to playing in the bands at Forrestdale, Andrew is also a member of the RFH Marching Bulldogs under the direction of Dr. Sara Marino.

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