

ILMEA

ILMEA allows musicians to show off their hard work and dedication.

by Lily Peterson

According to ilmea.org, ILMEA is “a not-for-profit professional association representing every level of music education in every discipline.”

Once a year, ILMEA invites high school students from their respective districts to audition for a district level band. From there, students from every district audition to become part of the state level band.

The audition process is very competitive to qualify for both state and district. For district band, each player performed a very difficult scale sheet and two, one minute long etudes. Despite the difficult auditioning pieces, a whopping 22 DHS students went to state for orchestra, choir, jazz band, and wind band!

ILMEA district concert band was hosted at DHS on November 19th. The district band practiced all day starting at 10am and finally ending at 7pm when the band performed its concert. Of the roughly 150 high school students who qualified and performed for district band, ___ were DHS students.

ILMEA state level band was held in Peoria, IL from January 25th through 28th. Sophomore Lucio Bennardo was the first sophomore percussionist in history to go to Allstate.

Bennardo said, “Being a sophomore, I learned what level other drum-

mers across the state were in comparison to the ones at our school.”

ILMEA allows musicians to grow by challenging themselves and going out of their comfort zone. First Sophomore Trumpet Player Devonte Merrick said, “I’d say once you say you made it to ILMEA the hard work pays off and there’s a big boost of self confidence. Sometimes, as a musician, you get used to playing with the same people everyday so when you go to events like ILMEA you get a chance to compare yourselves to others which is quite fun and no matter which event it is you always bring with you your talent obviously and your school pride.”

The mission statement according to ilmea.org is “The Illinois Music Education Association exists to advocate for universal access to comprehensive music education; deliver exemplary professional development for educators; and provide outstanding musical experiences for all Illinois learners facilitated by licensed music educators.”

ILMEA encourages students to progress both musically and academically. This organization goes beyond two performances a year and encourages a lifetime of music appreciation.



Noah Brooks, Mr. Lundin, and Lucio Bennardo in Peoria IL. Photo provided by Mr. Lundin



Selfie of DHS' percussionists at state. Photo provided by Caleb Hoffman



Shot of state band. Photo provided by Lucio Bennardo.



Devonte Merrick playing trumpet at ILMEA. Photo provided by Mr. Lundin.



Group shot of DHS musician. Photo provided Mr Lundin.