



Thornton Fractional High School District 215

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Thornton Fractional Students Selected for ILMEA District 1 Concert Band, Jazz Band and Choir

Lansing, IL: The Illinois Music Education Association District 1 (City of Chicago and Southwest Suburbs) conducted auditions for area high school musicians and three Thornton Fractional students were selected for the Concert Band, Jazz Band and Choir. North musicians Quentin McFadzean, junior trumpet player, and Zia Brandon, freshman soprano singer, submitted audition tapes which included performing specific pieces of music as well as demonstrating mastery of scales, etudes and arpeggios. South senior trumpet player Qayla MCGahee also auditioned, and in a rare distinction, became only the second student to be chosen for both the Jazz Band and Concert Band from Thornton Fractional South. These three TFD 215 musicians competed against students from over 80 other high schools.

Mr. McFadzean has been playing trumpet for eight years and his audition required him to perform scales (12 major, 12 melodic minor, and 12 natural minor), a lyrical etude, and a technical etude. Quentin hasn't finalized what he plans to do after graduation although he is considering something in music and/or Art or Science and is interested in learning how to play the tenor saxophone. Ms. Brandon is a Soprano 1 (the most competitive section) in the TF North Choir and as a freshman, she surpassed two seniors and a junior for her spot in the ILMEA Honor Choir. Her audition included 3 different classical pieces and Zia was required to demonstrate mastery of tonal skills by singing several scales and arpeggios. Singing and music are currently part of her collegiate plans. McFadzean and Brandon joined other high school musicians November 19, 2022 at Elmhurst University for the ILMEA District 1 Music Festival which culminated in performances by the District 1 Honor Band, Jazz Band and Honor Choir. Mr. Rucinski, North Principal commented, "I am proud of Quentin and Zia and how well they have represented TF North and the greater TF215 community. These recognitions by ILMEA are due to the support of their families/school community and are the direct result of their hard work and dedication."

Ms. MCGahee of TF South also performed scales and lyrical/technical etudes in being selected to the Jazz Festival performance at York High School on November 12th. Mr. Gourley, South Principal said of Qayla MCGahee, "Congratulations to Qayla on achieving this distinct honor. We wished her the best as she joined some of the best musicians from around the state in sharing their talents with one another."

About Thornton Fractional High School District 215: District 215 serves the students of Burnham, Calumet City, Lansing, and Lynwood at Thornton Fractional North High School, Thornton Fractional South High School, Thornton Fractional Center for Academics and Technology, and Thornton Fractional Center for Alternative Learning. The mission of District 215 is to provide diverse learning opportunities that inspire all students to become life-long learners who contribute to their community.

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