

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **HPMS Musicians Earn Region Band Placements**

**Kerrville, TX (December 4, 2023)** – After months of practice, almost two dozen Hal Peterson Middle School band students saw their hard work pay off by earning spots in South Texas Honor Band ensembles last month.

“The entire band staff is thrilled to see the hard work and dedication of our students pay off,” said Justin Mills, director of bands for HPMS.

“The future is certainly bright with these outstanding students setting the mark for the future of the KISD band program.”

Wheatlynn Michael pulled off a unique feat by earning a spot in both ensembles on two different instruments. She earned 4<sup>th</sup> chair in the Symphonic Band on trombone, while also earning 1<sup>st</sup> chair in the Concert Band on the tenor saxophone. Michael is the only student at the event to make two bands, Mills said.

In another noteworthy accomplishment, Reid Sonnenberg earned 1<sup>st</sup> chair in the Symphonic Band on trumpet for the second year in a row.

Students were given music to learn and practice mostly on their own for auditions in front of judges, who gave each student a score to determine band and chair placements. Students competed against other middle school band students in the Region 20 area.

HPMS students earning a spot in the Symphonic region band include: Andi Hernandez, 8<sup>th</sup> Chair on clarinet; Piper Tarnowski, 4<sup>th</sup> Chair on flute; Andreas Olguin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chair on French horn.

Students earning a spot in the Concert region band include: Carli Goodwyn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chair on alto saxophone; Irasema Alvarado, 5<sup>th</sup> Chair on alto saxophone; Trey Gonzales, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chair on baritone saxophone; Elijah Burchers-Brown, 3<sup>rd</sup> Chair on baritone horn; Edward Eastland, 3<sup>rd</sup> Chair on clarinet; Emmerie McGowan, 5<sup>th</sup> Chair on clarinet; Jeslynn Carroll, 5<sup>th</sup> Chair on flute; Aiden Davis, 6<sup>th</sup> Chair on flute; Nathan Rusch, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chair on French horn; Seth Venzor, 3<sup>rd</sup> Chair on French horn; J.T. Grassmuck, 6<sup>th</sup> Chair on French horn; Lilith Heitkamp, 3<sup>rd</sup> Chair in Percussion; Maddox Forrester, 4<sup>th</sup> Chair on trombone; Darren Dang, 7<sup>th</sup> Chair on trombone; Brevon Escobedo, 4<sup>th</sup> Chair on trumpet; Scarlett Martinez, 7<sup>th</sup> Chair on trumpet.

Emma Meador was named an alternate for concert band on trumpet.

These students will participate in a clinic and concert for the public on Saturday, January 27, 2024 at Boerne North Middle School. The HPMS Band program is under the direction of Justin Mills and Reagan Day.

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