

FALL & WINTER

2018-2019

All-National Honor Ensembles Acceptances

Julie Park

The Cresskill Music Department has had quite a year thus far. From Mr. Verderese conducting the finale band of 1200 band students at the North Jersey Marching Band Festival to the vocal ensembles competing in an international competition, the music department continues to demonstrate its commitment to music with many gifted students and exceptional teachers. But among these achievements, there are two seniors who have been accepted into the national level ensembles: Justin Ryu, a viola player who made the National Orchestra, and Devon Ulrich, a trumpet player who made the National Band. Both are players who have consistently demonstrated great musical success throughout their high school careers.

To qualify for a national ensemble, a student must first place in a regional ensemble, competing against other musicians from their county and other designated neighboring counties. Students can then register to compete for a spot in a state level ensemble. Then, if accepted, they will be given the chance to audition for a national level ensemble, competing against musicians from all over the country.

While the competition may have been fierce, Justin stated, "the memories at Nationals in Florida are unforgettable. The music was challenging and we only had three days to put together a professional level concert. But that wasn't the only part: the thrill rides and firework show at Disney World's Magic Kingdom was quite the experience. Plus, I was able to meet many kids from all over the country and laugh with them about music, our schools, or even how a California kid wanted to see snow and was reprimanded by a student living in Upstate New York."

While Devon and Justin are honored to have been part of such a prestigious group, they are also ecstatic to announce they have been invited to join the All-Eastern Ensembles (a group of musicians draft picked from the Eastern Seaboard) and will be performing at Pittsburgh this April.

Marching Band

- ♪ *Rutgers HS Band Day*
- ♪ *Bergenfield Band Competition*
- ♪ *Montclair Band Festival*

Holiday Concert

- ♪ *HS Holiday Concert*
- ♪ *MS Holiday Concert*

HS Jazz Band

- ♪ *Trumpets Jazz Club*

A Cappella

- ♪ *ICHSA Competition*

Student Achievements

- ♪ *HS Accepted Auditions*
- ♪ *MS Accepted Auditions*

Marching Band 2018

An Overview

Devon Ulrich

The CHS Marching Band debuted early this school year, with our earliest ever first public performance on August 30th! The Cresskill football team went up against Butler High School on the final day of band camp, so rather than finishing up the two weeks of rehearsals with our usual showcase for parents and friends, we got to perform during the halftime show in Butler. The marching band continued performing during halftime shows for the rest of the football season, and we consistently worked hard to improve our music and sets week after week. We also proudly represented the Cresskill Cougars in all eight football games this season by cheering from the bleachers and loudly playing stands tunes to support the team. Go Cougars!



Rutgers HS Band Day

Audrey Cho

This year, the marching band was offered the opportunity to participate in the annual High School Band Day at Rutgers University on October 6th. The band performed a segment of the halftime show, which featured highlights from the musical *Wicked*, alongside the Rutgers University Marching Band, as well as several other high school bands. Overall, it was a great experience for all students who attended.



Bergen County Invitational Band Festival

Justin Park

This year, the Cresskill band returned to compete at the Bergen County Invitational Festival on September 30th, the earliest the event has ever been scheduled for us. Heading to the festival, the band was hit with a whole lot of nerves and pressure to do our best. As we waited to perform, we heard the many other talented bands perform their shows. Our nerves went into overdrive when we started on the practice field. It certainly did not help that our feet sunk into the muddy field with each step. Yet, this only fueled our ambition. Despite the less-than-ideal conditions, we were able to complete the warm up (with our mental integrity intact) and get on the football field for the competition. The band played louder and more ferociously than even during the Friday night football games; every member of the band was proud of the performance. Afterwards, the band then sat through some amazing performances from other schools, earning loud applause from the students. We went on to win an award for “Best Overall Effect”, an achievement that no one in the band anticipated. The whole mood of the band was uplifted and this could not have been done without the hard work of every single staff member, student leader, and, most importantly, marching band member who work so diligently to get the show running.

North Jersey Band Festival

Eric Song

The 2018 Marching Band season was filled with many memorable moments, but let's reminisce about one of the biggest events of it all—the Montclair State Band Festival. On November 4th, 2018, the Cresskill High School Marching Band was given the honor to perform as the finale band of the entire festival. With this, more than ever, a great deal of pressure was put upon each and every member of the band to give it their all and do their part. From weekly sectionals in the summer to daily 9th period rehearsals, every individual worked hard to create an ensemble that was ready to close out the 72nd annual North Jersey Band Festival in front of hundreds of parents, teachers, and fellow students. The Cresskill students performed their show, titled “Fowl Music”, a medley of music composed of Birdland, Blackbird, and Firebird. To conclude, the marching bands from the festival closed out the event by performing “America the Beautiful” as one mass band finale, conducted by Cresskill's very own Mr. Joseph Verderese.

Holiday CONCERTS

Middle School Holiday Concert

Yarden Merin

The 2018 Cresskill Middle School Holiday Concert was a blast, featuring both the instrumental and vocal sides of the spectrum. The concert featured songs such as “Moon of Winter”, “Baby It’s Cold Outside”, “Hanukkah Dance”, and “Bell Carol Rock” from the band, while the choir took on “Jingle Bell Rock” and “Celebrate the Feast of Lights”. Afik Merin, a trombone player and a singer from the sixth grade, spoke about his experiences with his first Middle School Concert. “At first, I was very nervous, yet excited at the same time; but once I started playing and singing, I felt like nothing can hold me back. I kept this mindset until the end of the concert.” The Jazz Band, 6th Grade Band, 7th/8th Grade Band, Middle School Choir, and Vocal Ensemble all made this concert a very special one for both the performers and the viewers.

High School Holiday Concert

Nicole Huh

In the spirit of the holidays, the annual Cresskill High School Holiday Concert gave family and friends a chance to witness the hard work and talent of Cresskill students involved in the music department. The Cresskill HS concert band returned with their fourth annual tradition of their guest conductor, but with a twist this year. Instead of just one conductor, *two* of Cresskill’s finest teachers conducted the concert band in “Sleigh Ride.” Mrs. Stein and Mrs. Whitney, two amazing teachers who continuously offer their support to the music department, entertained the audience with their spirited interpretations of the song. The band completed their set list with two more pieces that incorporated many familiar holiday tunes. Afterwards, the Jazz Band impressed the audience with three more festive tunes, including multiple solos from many of its members.

Following the jazz band were Cresskill’s vocal ensembles. Both the all women’s a cappella group, Note-oriety, and the mixed a cappella group, SoundXplosion, performed, each delivering talented performances. Following these groups, the concert choir sang “Everywhere Christmas Tonight”, with background instrumentals provided by an orchestra formed by selected instrumentalists from the concert band and, in addition, talented musicians from all around the high school and middle school. The choir continued with four more songs, impressing audiences with their large selection of music. For the finale, the choir continued the tradition of inviting alumni in the audience to join in singing “Hallelujah Chorus” on the stage with current concert choir members. The night concluded successfully, with each musical group delivering astounding performances, as audience members left the auditorium with a night to remember.



H S J a z z p e r f o r m a n c e a t *Trumpets Jazz Club*

Cristina Scofield

On December 16th, 2018, the CHS Jazz Band had the honor of performing a holiday show at Trumpets Jazz Club in Montclair, NJ. The band has played at Trumpets before, but this was its very first holiday show. The jazz band performed alongside two world-renowned jazz musicians, Freddie Hendrix on trumpet and Eric Alexander on saxophone. After the high school band performed, Mr. Verderese's very own big band, One More Once, performed their own holiday show, inviting two of Cresskill's players, Justin Ryu and Devon Ulrich, to play with the pros on a few songs. Overall, it was a great night that got everyone into the holiday spirit!

A Cappella Groups Compete in the International Championship of High School A Cappella

Lucas Chan

On January 25, 2019, both Cresskill a cappella groups, SoundXplosion and Note-oriety, competed in the International Championship of High School A Cappella (ICHSA). Both groups performed at Northern Highlands Regional High School alongside six other talented groups, such as LumeNAtion from Newark Academy and Highlands Voices from Northern Highlands Regional High School. At 7PM, the competition began. Note-oriety, Cresskill's all women's a cappella group, performed during the first half and delivered a stunning performance. The crowd especially loved the energy and the attitude that the members of Note-oriety brought to the stage, cheering at multiple different times during the performance. After intermission, SoundXplosion approached the stage, presenting an "edgier" mood with songs such as "Attention" by Charlie Puth and "Drag Me Down" by One Direction. One highlight of the set was vocal percussionist Matthew Garson who, during "Drag Me Down," took center stage with a vocal percussion solo.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Lucas Chan 10 (Bass 2)

Bergen County HS Choir

Region I HS Choir

Linnea Corona 12 (Soprano 2)

Bergen County HS Choir

Amanda Graf 11 (Soprano 2)

Region I HS Choir

Joon Lee 10 (Violin)

Region I HS Orchestra

Justin Ryu 12 (Viola)

Region I HS Orchestra

All-State Orchestra

All-National Orchestra

All-Eastern Ensembles

Moe Sato 9 (Soprano 2)

Bergen County HS Choir

Region I HS Choir

Erel Shapira 9 (Multi-Percussion)

North Jersey Jr. Region I Concert Band

North Jersey Jr. Region I Orchestra

Victoria Trinidad 11 (Alto 1)

Bergen County HS Choir

Region I HS Choir

Devon Ulrich 12 (Trumpet)

Region I HS Wind Ensemble

All-State Wind Ensemble

All-State Orchestra

All-National Band

All-Eastern Ensembles

Eliana Yoo 12 (Alto 1)

Bergen County HS Choir

Region I HS Choir

Bori Chung 7 (Viola)

North Jersey Jr. Region I Orchestra

Andrew Kim 8 (Multi-Percussion)

North Jersey Jr. Region I Concert Band

North Jersey Jr. Region I Orchestra

Cadee Lee 8 (Clarinet)

North Jersey Jr. Region I Symphonic Winds

North Jersey Jr. Region I Orchestra

Yoonseo Lee 8 (Trumpet)

North Jersey Jr. Region I Symphonic Winds

Yubin Lee 8 (Violin)

North Jersey Jr. Region I Orchestra

Katherine Lim 7 (Soprano 1, Mallet Percussion)

North Jersey Jr. Region I Treble Choir

North Jersey Jr. Region I Symphonic Winds

Bergen County MS Choir

Bergen County MS Band

Leo Rael 7 (Tenor)

North Jersey Jr. Region I Mixed Choir

Bergen County MS Choir

Kyunga Shin 8 (Viola)

North Jersey Jr. Region I Orchestra

Nina Touns 8 (Alto)

North Jersey Jr. Region I Mixed Choir

Bergen County MS Choir

Jayden Yoo 8 (Mallet Percussion)

North Jersey Jr. Region I Symphonic Winds

Joshua Yoon 7 (Trombone)

North Jersey Jr. Region I Band

Special thanks to

Lucas Chan

Audrey Cho

Nicole Huh

Yarden Merin

Julie Park

Justin Park

Justin Ryu

Cristina Scofield

Eric Song

Devon Ulrich

Layout design by

Audrey Cho :^)