



WHIPPANY PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Whippany Park student makes national band



Kenny Wang, right, meets with conductor Mark Camphouse.

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HANOVER TWP. – Whippany Park High School student Kenny Wang has been selected to perform with the 2014 National Association for Music Education’s (NAfME) All-National Concert Band in Nashville, Tenn.

A junior, Wang plays the bassoon, and was previously selected to North Jersey Area Band, New Jersey Region I Band and New Jersey All State Band as a sophomore. He was also in Region I Orchestra last year, and recently performed as a member of the All State Orchestra at the NJEA Teachers’ Convention in Atlantic City.

The All-National Band represents the top performing high school musicians in the United States. Wang is one of just four bassoonists in the country to be chosen for the band. T

he performance was held on Oct. 29 on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry, under the direction of renowned composer Mark Camphouse. Said Wang, “It was such an honor being in an ensemble of such a high calibre, and it was a humbling experience being with so many good people.” He went on to say, “Camphouse was a great conductor and educator. He knew how to inspire us, and I learned a lot just by playing for him.”

Wang is the second Whippany Park student in two years to receive this honor. In 2013, then-senior Michael Tai, a saxophonist, was selected to the NAfME Band. Whippany Park band directors Carl Sabatino and Peter Sciano were excited to have a second student in two years selected for the national band.

According to Sciano, “Kenny is an extraordinary musician who raises the level of

musicianship of any ensemble in which he participates. In addition to playing bassoon, he also plays tenor saxophone in our marching band and jazz ensemble, and is a featured musician in those groups as well. We are very fortunate to have such an enthusiastic and talented student in our program.”

Sabatino said, “Kenny has the drive and determination to accomplish anything he puts his mind to. He clearly understands what it takes to be successful and is always working to get to the next level. During these last three years, Kenny has improved a tremendous amount and is well deserving of this honor. I think there is little doubt that he was inspired by Mike Tai, but Kenny put in the hard work and showed the determination to get on the National stage.”

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