

Bentonville Band Family,

Congratulations on some amazing auditions! Each year, I am blown away with your level of preparedness and artistry and this year is **no different!** Truly, gone are the days of such wide discrepancies of our musicians in the Bentonville Band Program!

Take this into consideration:

The Average Wind Ensemble score was 358 this year. 3 years ago it was 332.

The Average Symphonic Winds score was 322 this year. 3 years ago it was 282.

We are all getting better, and I think this is evident in our shared experiences of success through ALL ENSEMBLES in the program.

Auditions results are for your teachers, a mix bag of emotions:

- On one hand we are excited about the growth of each individual player and we are happy to see your excitement of hard work rewarded.
- On the other hand, we know that some students will inevitably be disappointed in the final results and that is always difficult to see. Your hard work is valued and appreciated too!

A word of encouragement, no matter what band you are in, **YOU** have the ability to make a positive impact!

A word of advice, please be respectful of your fellow colleagues. Everyone has the same goals of reaching the top of their potential. Moments like this, emotions are high and things can be said that can be hurtful. Please use your best judgment in how you speak about results and just like when we are at a contest, never disparage another student because you don't agree with results.

Proud of **YOU**,

- Hendrix

