

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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FORRESTDALE SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT TAKES TOP HONORS

Performance groups receive awards at the 2018 Music in the Parks Festival

Rumson, NJ – On Friday, May 4, the Forrestdale Senior Choir under the direction of Mrs. Barbara Leutz and the Forrestdale Concert Band under the direction of Mr. John Lebitsch performed in Jackson, NJ as part of the 2018 *Music in the Parks Festival*. Following their performances, the groups finished their day at *Six Flags Great Adventure* where the official awards ceremony was held.

At *Music in the Parks*, each ensemble gives an adjudicated performance by prominent judges in the field of music education. Directors receive taped and written comments from each judge. This year’s festival featured 26 performing ensembles from 11 different schools representing New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland.

This year, the Forrestdale Choir came in **1st Place** with a rating of **Excellent**. The Forrestdale Band came in **1st Place** with a rating of **Superior**. In addition to the ensemble awards, the Forrestdale Band earned the distinction of being named **Best Overall Concert Band** in the jr. high/middle school division.

To cap off the awards ceremony, the entire music department was presented with the festival’s top honor: the coveted **Esprit de Corps Award**. Highlighting the importance of genuine support for fellow performers while demonstrating excellence in all facets of performance both on and off stage, this honorable distinction is presented to one school at the awards ceremony at the conclusion of the festival.

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