



John Hersey High School  
**Jazz Ensemble**  
Arlington Heights, Illinois



# IMEC 2024

COLLABORATIVE FEATURE PERFORMANCE



MUNDELEIN  
HIGH SCHOOL

Mundelein High School  
**Jazz Ensemble**  
Mundelein, Illinois





# HOW DID WE GET HERE?

(the story of our process)

Our goal is to showcase the musicians from BOTH John Hersey High School and Mundelein High School collaborating and performing together. We want to extend our musical community beyond the walls of our own schools and collaborate with other musicians in our area. The two high schools are 13.5 miles from each other in two different towns, two different school districts, and two different counties.

This IMEC Performance is built upon more than a year of collaboration between the two schools' jazz ensembles.

During the 2022-2023 school year, the students from the two schools collaborated three different times:

- October 2022 - Shared concert at Mundelein High School with guest artist Sharel Cassity. The students from JHHS and MHS each performed a set of 4-5 pieces of music. As part of the event, the students ate dinner together, and several students from both schools played during the final number.
- January 2023 - Prior to both schools participating at the Purdue Jazz Festival, the students performed for each other at John Hersey High School. As part of the event, the students ate lunch together! (Please note the importance of FOOD!)
- March 2023 - The John Hersey High School jazz students participated in the Mundelein Jazz Festival and students from both schools were able to socialize during the event.



This performance is comprised of various groupings of musicians:



Includes ALL musicians from JHHS & MHS



Mundelein High School Jazz Ensemble



Includes a combined group of students from MHS and JHHS



John Hersey High School Jazz Ensemble

8:15 AM, Friday, January 26, 2024 – Peoria Civic Center 405/406

## John Hersey High School Jazz Ensemble & Mundelein High School Jazz Ensemble

Arlington Heights, IL & Mundelein, IL

Spencer Hile, director (John Hersey HS) & Andy Sturgeon, director (Mundelein HS)



Title	Composer/Arranger	Publisher/Distributor	Year	Grade
<b>Combined Double Big Band</b>				
Malaguena	Ernesto Lecuona arr. Bill Holman	Sierra Music Publications	1928/1993	5
<b>Saxophone Ensemble</b>				
Prohibido	Benny Carter	Jazz Lines Publications	1967	4
<b>Standard Big Band Instrumentation w/Combined Students</b>				
El Vito en el Congo	Miguel Blanco	iJazz Music	2006	5
Four Brothers	Jimmy Giuffre trans. Myles Collins	Lush Life Music	1947/2019	5
Del Rio a La Mar	Bernard van Rossum	iJazz Music	2022	4
<b>Trombone Ensemble</b>				
CRB's 76 Trombones	Meredith Wilson arr. Michael Davis & Shari Feder	Hip-Bone Music	1957/2007	5
<b>John Hersey High School Jazz Ensemble 1</b>				
The Pretty Road	Maria Schneider	Maria Schneider Music	2007	6
<b>Mundelein High School Jazz Ensemble</b>				
On the Sunny Side of the Street	Dorothy Fields & Jimmy McHugh arr. John Clayton	Hal Leonard Corporations	1930/2009	5
Iluminada	Michele Fernández	Michele Fernández Music	2018/2023	4
The First Circle	Pat Metheny & Lyle Mays arr. Bob Curnow	Sierra Music Publications	1987/2004	5
<b>Combined Double Big Band</b>				
Punching Up	Neil Carson	Manuscript	2021/2023	5





*Frank Barrett*  
Senior - Alto Saxophone

**Favorite piece from this set** — *Punching Up* by Neil Carson

**Favorite piece performed while at JHHS** — *One for All* by Neil Carson

**Favorite Jazz Musician** — My favorite musician is Kenny Garrett because of how different he is from most other saxophone players. He's able to do so many incredible things and listening to him is always exciting.

**Plans after HS** — I want to go to Elmhurst University to study music and also learn instrument repair as an apprentice to earn a degree and an on-the-job education.



*Gabri Fiorenza*  
Senior - Tenor Saxophone

**Favorite piece from this set** — *Malaguena* by Ernesto Lecuona, arr. Bill Holmon

**Favorite piece performed while at JHHS** — *Hang Gliding* by Maria Schneider

**Plans after HS** — Music Business or Music Education. I really want to do something with music in the future, and I've already taught private lessons to kids and I know I enjoy doing it. But I am really looking into making my own music lesson company.

**Favorite Jazz Musician** — Cole Runge: he's a jazz guitarist that has taught me lessons before. His playing style is really different from a lot of other guitarists and his feel for the music is really unique.



*Grant Fuller*  
Junior - Baritone Saxophone

**Favorite piece from this set** — *Punching Up* by Neil Carson

**Favorite piece performed while at JHHS** — *Two Seconds to Midnight* by Alan Baylock

**Favorite Jazz Musician** — Hank Mobley because he is a great musician and he has some great solos, some that I have transcribed and some that I would like to transcribe in the future.

**Thoughts about HS Band** — The JHHS band program is where I have made all my friends. I believe that if I didn't do band, I wouldn't be the person I am today, and I am very grateful for everyone I have met in the last three years.



*Ryan Stegman*  
Senior - Alto Saxophone, alto flute

**Favorite piece from this set** — *Prohibido* by Benny Carter

**Favorite Jazz Musician** — My favorite jazz musician is Kenny Garrett, because I think he has the best alto sound of anyone and plays in a really unique style specific to him.

**Thoughts about Jazz Band** — My favorite thing is the energy we have when we perform a song we really enjoy for a great crowd, and how we always play our best in our performances.

**Thoughts about JHHS Band** - It's given me a lot of personal growth and has shown me the value of hard work and how to improve at something you really enjoy. It's given me so many life lessons along the way that I can't even start to list.



*Annabelle Temple*  
Senior - Tenor Saxophone, clarinet

**Favorite piece from this set** — *Punching Up* by Neil Carson

**Favorite piece performed while at JHHS** — *Touch of Dixie* by Jeff Taylor

**Plans after HS** — I believe that graphic design will be a good field for me because it incorporates creativity, organization, art, and expression which is something I have been passionate about other than music.

**Favorite Jazz Musician** — Clifford Brown (Study in Brown): the group listens and communicates through feel and rhythm building off one another, the soloists use a range of vocabulary and use it to speak through their music, the groove is right in the pocket for all of the songs, and it makes it incredibly enjoyable to listen to with peers.







Junior - Alto Saxophone, flute, soprano saxophone

*Michael*  
**CORY**

**Favorite piece from this set** — *The First Circle* by Pat Metheny/Lyle Mays arr. Bob Curnow

**Favorite piece performed while at MHS** — *Gospel John* arr. Chris Sharp

**Favorite Jazz Group** — The Dave Brubeck Quartet is easily my favorite group because of the West Coast Jazz style and catchy repertoire. Each of the members is an inspiration to me, from Brubeck's improvisational ability to Desmond's smooth sound.

**Thoughts about the Band Program** — The Mundelein Band program means so much to me. From all of my friends to our great directors, I take pride in knowing I'm a part of it. I could not envision my life without music and in turn without our amazing program. Even when I'm having a bad day, band has been there to brighten my mood.



Senior - Tenor Saxophone, Alto Saxophone, flute, clarinet

*Graham*  
**Earich**

**Favorite piece from this set** — *Malaguena* by Ernesto Lecuona arr. Bill Holman

**Favorite piece performed while at MHS** — *Just the Two of Us* arr. John Wasson

**Thoughts on MHS Jazz** — I enjoy being around people my age, some younger than me, who are pushing me to be my best self simply from being as good as they are. Playing with those who tower over your own skill level only inspires someone to meet their league one day.

**Thoughts on MHS Band** — The entire program has been nothing short of a blessing. I've gotten to meet countless people, some of whom have become some of my closest friends, as well as gotten to watch myself grow to levels I never saw being possible for me. MHS Band: I owe pretty much everything, no matter what happens, it'll always have a special place in my heart.



Senior - Alto Saxophone, flute

*Michael*  
**McMurray**

**Favorite piece from this set** — *Malaguena* by Ernesto Lecuona arr. Bill Holman

**Favorite piece performed while at MHS** — *Malaguena* by Ernesto Lecuona arr. Bill Holman

**Favorite Jazz Musician** — Kristofer Maddigan. He wrote the music for the game *Cuphead*, which initially got me into jazz music in the first place.

**Plans after HS** — Mechanical or aerospace engineering. I love to learn how things work and make them better.



Junior - Bari Saxophone, flute, tenor, alto, and soprano sax

*Aidan*  
**ROSS**

**Favorite piece from this set** — *Del Río a La Mar* by Bernard Van Rossum

**Favorite piece performed while at MHS** — *Cruisin' for a Bluesin'* by Andy Weiner arr. Peter Blair

**Favorite Jazz Musician** — Ronnie Cuber; He can make any sound out of his instrument go along with the song he's playing.

**Other Ensembles:** Arlington Heights Community Concert Band

**Other thoughts** — Jazz has given me new perspectives to music. Without learning how music can be linked to emotions, I wouldn't have these special connections to songs that I otherwise wouldn't even think about listening to.



Junior - Tenor saxophone, flute, bass clarinet

*Jordan*  
**Vincent**

**Favorite piece from this set** — *Malaguena* by Ernesto Lecuona arr. Bill Holman

**Favorite piece performed while at MHS** — *Miss Missouri* by Benny Carter

**Favorite Jazz Musician** — Johnny Hodges or Eddie Barbash

**Thoughts on the Band Program** — It has definitely made a big difference and impact on my life and who I want to be, from coming into it until now.





*Kevin Harte*  
Junior - Bass Trombone, tuba

**Favorite piece from this set** — *Punching Up* by Neil Carson

**Favorite piece performed while at JHHS** — *Visions* by Melissa Aldana arr. Jim McNeely

**Favorite Jazz Group** — Maria Schneider Orchestra— Maria Schneider is a very innovative composer and her big band executes her innovative concepts on every tune.

**Thoughts about Jazz Band** — Being able to work with so many amazing musicians!



*Jade Hasche*  
Senior - Trombone

**Favorite piece from this set** — *The Pretty Road* by Maria Schneider

**Favorite piece performed while at JHHS** — *Turkish Bath* by Don Ellis

**Favorite Jazz Group** — Casiopea, a jazz-funk fusion group from Japan

**Thoughts on Jazz Ensemble** — Jazz differentiates itself from other disciplines within the band, as everyone is responsible for one part, with nobody else on your instrument having the same part as you. Occasionally a part could be unison, but that tends to be the exception rather than the rule. In this way, being a part of a jazz ensemble is the ultimate group project, with a great jazz band not having half, or three-fourths of the band committed to making music, but the whole group.



*Trombone section*



*Kate Kaiser*  
Senior - Trombone

**Favorite piece from this set** — *76 Trombones* arr. Michael Davis/Shari Feder

**Favorite piece performed while at JHHS** — *Groovin' Hard* by Don Menza

**Plans after HS** — I want to study electrical engineering because I enjoy working with electrical components and seeing how they all work together.

**Thoughts on JHHS** — The JHHS band program has allowed me to become a better player throughout my high school career and to make many friends and memories.



*Linnea Olsen*  
Sophomore - Trombone

**Favorite piece from this set** — *El Vito en el Congo* - arr. Miguel Blanco

**Favorite piece performed while at JHHS** — *Dear Old Stockholm* arr. Jim Morton

**Favorite Jazz musician** — My favorite has to be Laufey. Her music is just so comforting and is one reason as to why jazz is coming back into popularity. I just love her and her music so much.

**Other activities** — Scholastic bowl, track and field, ski and snowboard club, and one-acts.

**Thoughts on the Band Program** — It meant a new opportunity was available to me to meet other fantastic musicians that are extremely talented and being able to share this amazing opportunity with them.







*Dylan* **Buisson**  
Junior - Bass Trombone

**Favorite piece from this set** — *The First Circle* by Pat Metheny/Lyle Mays arr. Bob Curnow

**Favorite piece performed while at MHS** — *Just the Two of Us* - arr. John Wasson

**Favorite Jazz Musician/Group** — My favorite jazz musician is Dave Brubeck because I love the way he uses odd time signatures so effectively and smoothly.

**Thought on the Band Program** — To me, the Mundelein Band program has meant a way to enjoy myself by hearing and playing fun music and making good friends, while also developing a skill that is important to me.



*Baaden* **Kratz**  
Senior - Trombone, mellophone, euphonium

**Favorite piece from this set** — *Del Rio a La Mar* by Bernard Van Russum

**Favorite piece performed while at MHS** — *On the Sunny Side of the Street* arr. John Clayton

**Plans after HS** — I'm planning on studying both neuroscience and sociology, since I'm split on whether I want to go into studying neuroscience or politics. I personally think I'd fit either of these fields, since I love the complexity in both of them, and problem solving that comes along with it.

**Favorite Jazz Group** — The Wynton Marsalis band from Jazz in Marciac 2009 always just grooves so well. All the players have their own different styles and ways of making their playing special, and they all fit together so well. It's just very enjoyable to listen to them play.



*Chloe* **Langford**  
Junior - Trombone

**Favorite piece from this set** — *Punching Up* by Neil Carson

**Favorite piece performed while at MHS** — *Denial* by Ben Patterson

**Favorite Jazz Musician** — I really like the trombonist Marshall Gilkes. He has the smoothest tone ever, with incredible flexibility. He also performs a variety of music and styles.

**Thoughts on the Band Program** — The MHS Band Program is where I've become close with so many of my friends. It's a family to me, and it has helped me learn so much about myself as a person and musician that I would not have learned practicing on my own.



*Marissa* **Van Eycke**  
Junior - Trombone

**Favorite piece from this set** — *The First Circle* by Pat Metheny/Lyle Mays arr. Bob Curnow

**Favorite piece performed while at MHS** — *Denial* by Ben Patterson

**Favorite Jazz Group** — My favorite jazz group is Matt Niess and The Capitol Bones. I really like their album "The Beat Goes On" because it's all songs played just by trombones, which gives the trombone a well-needed chance to be featured.

**Plans after HS** — I want to go into something STEM related in college. I've always been interested in my math and science classes.







*Gabriel Dudas*  
Junior - Trumpet, mellophone

**Favorite piece from this set** — *Malaguena* by Ernesto Lecuona arr. Bill Holmon

**Favorite piece performed while at JHHS** — *Round Midnight* by Thelonious Monk

**Thoughts on the Band Program** — The program allows me to have a place where I can truly express myself musically, allowing me to enjoy every moment within the program itself.

**Thoughts about JHHS** — I get to be surrounded by like-minded musicians who have fantastic character. A sense of community is built because of the experiences I've had with my peers.



*Grace Fuller*  
Junior - Trumpet, mellophone

**Favorite piece from this set** — *Punching Up* by Neil Carson

**Favorite piece performed while at JHHS** — *Soupbone* by John Clayton

**Favorite Jazz musician** — I love Bria Skonberg! She's an incredible trumpet player and singer and is a big inspiration to me in both regards, especially as a woman in the jazz world.

**Thoughts on JHHS** — The teachers foster a welcoming learning environment that encourages creativity, challenge, and growth while providing rigorous coursework that keeps me engaged. I'm very lucky to go to such a fantastic school.



*Trumpet section*



*Jack Obrebski*  
Junior - Trumpet

**Favorite piece from this set** — *The Pretty Road* by Maria Schneider

**Favorite piece performed while at JHHS** — *Transit* by Darcy James Argue

**Favorite Jazz Musician** — My favorite jazz musician is Wynton Marsalis because as a trumpet player, Wynton is the biggest goal for what I wish my sound and phrasing in improvisation to become more like in the future.

**Thoughts on the band program** — The JHHS Band Program to me has meant excellence in everything we do: marching band, concert band, and jazz. Additionally, the program to me is about making strong bonds with people in and outside your section. that will last a lifetime.



*Ben Tanquary*  
Senior - Trumpet, flugelhorn

**Favorite piece from this set** — *Del Rio a la Mar* by Bernard Van Rossum

**Favorite piece performed while at JHHS** — *Black Orpheus* by Luiz Bonfá

**Favorite Jazz Musician** — Clifford Brown - Clifford was able to influence the jazz trumpet world in the few years that he played/recorded professionally. Even though his musical career was cut short, he played with musical maturity and style that was unheard of at his young age.

**Plans after HS** — I want to major in Jazz Studies for trumpet. Every day that I get to play trumpet, I become more passionate. Music has such an influence on my life that I want to make a career out of it.







Junior - Trumpet, Flugelhorn, flute, piccolo  
**Stella Moon**

**Favorite piece from this set** — *On the Sunny Side of the Street* arr. John Clayton

**Favorite piece performed while at MHS** — *Georgia on my Mind* - arr. Peterson

**Thoughts on Band Program** — Jazz does not judge. People are able to share ideas through their music and build off of one another easily; it's kind of like a team sport. I really enjoy seeing everyone's talents come together for the songs.

**Other Clubs/Activities** — Varsity Tennis, Girls Who Code, Model UN, National Honor Society, Academic Team



Senior - Trumpet, Flugelhorn, mellophone, trombone  
**Albe Delos Santos**

**Favorite piece from this set** — *Punching Up* by Neil Carson

**Favorite piece performed while at MHS** — *The First Circle* by Pat Metheny/Lyle Mays arr. Bob Curnow

**Plans after HS** — After high school, I am planning to major in Jazz Studies and Business Marketing. I want to continue to better my musical career as well as being able to market myself as a musician.

**Thoughts on the Band Program** — The Mundelein Band Program has truly allowed me to grow not only as a musician, but as a person. I have been given many opportunities that have benefited my success, and I truly appreciate the hard work that Mr. Sturgeon and Mr. Shelato put into this program.



Sophomore - Trumpet, Flugelhorn  
**Paola Vargas**

**Favorite piece from this set** — *Illuminada* by Michele Fernández

**Favorite piece performed while at MHS** — *Caravan* arr. John Wasson

**Other activities** — Soccer, Girls Who Code, Common Ground, and Science Olympiad

**Thoughts on Jazz Ensemble** — My favorite thing about being a member of the jazz ensemble is the fact that everyone is willing to help you with something you don't understand without judging.



Senior - Trumpet, Flugelhorn  
**Kaidyn Wright**

**Favorite piece from this set** — *Malaguena* by Ernesto Lecuona arr. Bill Holman

**Favorite piece performed while at MHS** — *Cruisin' For a Bluesin'* by Andy Weiner arr. Peter Blair

**Thoughts about MHS** — Making friends during the years being here and sharing fond memories. All the different options MHS has are great, as well as the teachers because you can tell they care.

**Favorite Musician** — I really like Jon Lampley because he has a kind heart and is a lovely person. He can blend his sound extremely well with the bands he plays in, and when he needs to take the lead he prevails.







*Adam*  
**Blendermann**  
Senior - Bass

**Favorite piece from this set** — *The Pretty Road* by Maria Schneider – It is a very powerful and beautiful song, and the band is working very hard to make it sound good.

**Favorite piece performed while at JHHS** — *Laila* by Dan Montgomery

**Favorite Jazz Musician** — I like Jaco Pastorius because he has a very strong sense of groove that I take a lot of influence from, and he also has a technical mastery of his instrument that not many other bassists have and that I strive for in my own playing.

**Plans after high school** — Jazz studies. This will be a good fit because music is what I am most passionate about...and jazz is probably my favorite genre to play.



*Victor*  
**Pavlov**  
Sophomore - Piano

**Favorite piece from this set** — *Punching Up* by Neil Carson

**Favorite piece performed while at JHHS** — *Soupbone* by John Clayton

**Favorite Jazz Musician** — Emmet Cohen, due to his stylistic way of playing the piano.

**Favorite part about being in Jazz Band** — Helping everyone, as the piano player many count on me for the changes. Also soloing is very fun since the piano is a very musical instrument, accompanying myself and creating musical ideas is so interesting!



*Rhythm section*



*Bethany*  
**Reed**  
Senior - Vibraphone

**Favorite piece from this set** — *Punching Up* by Neil Carson

**Favorite piece performed while at JHHS** — *One for All*

**Favorite Jazz Musician** — My favorite jazz musician is Christian Tamburr. He has an interesting modern jazz style on the vibraphone. His music makes me excited to learn more about the vibraphone and improve my playing.

**Other Clubs/Activities** — I am a part of National Honors Society, Peer Tutoring, and World Language Honor Society.



*Aidan*  
**Temple**  
Senior - Drum set

**Favorite piece from this set** — *The Pretty Road* by Martin Schneider

**Favorite Jazz Musician** — One of my favorite jazz drummers is Elvin Jones. I've played and listened to many recordings he has played on, and done a few transcriptions of his playing. He plays super involved, but none of what he plays is just "mindless." It still has a melody and fits just into how the horns play, which I aim to eventually imitate.

**Plans after high school** — I would like to pursue a degree in chemistry and potentially a minor in music. My later goal is to graduate from dental school and become an orthodontist. I've always loved science and wanted to help others as a health care worker. I also always want to continue playing music so these two majors will allow me to continue growing in the field that I enjoy.







Sophomore - Vibraphone, bass, auxiliary percussion

*Jake*  
**Baude**

**Favorite piece from this set** — *Punching Up* - Neil Carson

**Favorite piece performed while at MHS** — *Tiger of San Pedro* arr. Paul Lavender

**Favorite Jazz Musician** — I listen to Hiromi Uehara the most. The cohesion of her trios is immaculate and serves as a vehicle for her to play very energetic solos. Compositionally, her works are metrically and harmonically intriguing.

**Thoughts on the band program** — MHS's music program is a special part of the school in my opinion and the most outstanding program we have. The opportunities it has offered are invaluable.



Senior - Bass, auxiliary percussion

*Everett*  
**Correa**

**Favorite piece from this set** — *The First Circle* - Pat Metheny/Lyle Mays arr Bob Curnow

**Favorite piece performed while at MHS** — *Caravan* arr. John Wasson

**Plans after HS** — I want to Major in Architecture. It's something that has grown upon me since I was a young boy because my father did carpentry. I love the designing aspect of carpentry which, is why I want to do architecture, but the hard labor in carpentry is not it.

**Thoughts on Jazz Band** — It's brought a lot of hard work with trying to lock in with different students but it's been fun!



Junior - Drum Set, auxiliary percussion

*Emily*  
**Grandt**

**Favorite piece from this set** — *The First Circle* - Pat Metheny/Lyle Mays arr. Bob Curnow

**Favorite piece performed while at MHS** — *Georgia on My Mind* arr. John Clayton

**Other activities** — I'm a Link Crew leader, I lead a Christian group (FCA), and I'm a part of Best Buddies, Help One, and National Honor Society.

**Thoughts on the Band Program** — It has helped me to grow in a hobby of mine that I absolutely love, and for that, I am truly grateful. I now feel more confident as a performer and a musician, as well as being more well-rounded musically for when I hope to gig out after high school.



Junior - Guitar, auxiliary percussion

*Mason*  
**Jerome**

**Favorite piece from this set** — *The First Circle* - Pat Metheny/Lyle Mays arr. Bob Curnow

**Favorite piece performed while at MHS** — *Union* by Remy Le Boeuf

**Other activities** — Peer Tutors, Link Crew, National Honor Society

**Thoughts on Jazz Band** — I love having a close connection with the people who I get to play with. It makes the music so much more meaningful and fun.







Shawn Mastandrea  
Junior - Piano, auxiliary percussion

**Favorite piece from this set** — *The First Circle* - Pat Metheny/Lyle Mays arr. Bob Curnow

**Favorite piece performed while at MHS** — *F.M.* by Lyle Mays

**Best Part of Jazz Ensemble** — I love being able to express myself in my music instead of having to read exactly what the music says I have to play. It gives me great joy in my day when I play.

**Thoughts on the Band Program** — The Mundelein Band Program has given me many opportunities that I don't think I would get to the same capacity anywhere else. I am really glad that our arts department is as good as I had hoped.



Sydney Olorida  
Junior - Piano, bells, auxiliary percussion

**Favorite piece from this set** — *The First Circle* - Pat Metheny/Lyle Mays arr. Bob Curnow

**Thoughts on Jazz Ensemble** — My favorite thing about being a member of Honors Jazz Ensemble is getting to explore all sorts of jazz styles with some of my best friends. We all have become very close and coming to rehearsal everyday is such a joy because we all build each other up.

**Thoughts on the Band Program** — The Mundelein Band Program has been a safe place for my creativity and passion for music and the instruments I have been playing basically my whole life. My teachers have created an environment where we can make mistakes and try new things. This program means so much to me, because it has allowed me to learn so much about music and create lasting friendships in the various ensembles I'm a part of.



Sam Penteado  
Senior - Drum Set, auxiliary percussion

**Favorite piece from this set** — *The First Circle* - Pat Metheny/Lyle Mays arr. Bob Curnow

**Favorite piece performed while at MHS** — *Caravan* arr. John Wasson

**Plans after High School** — Jazz Studies and Music Performance. I've always loved music and I've always loved to learn more about music theory. I also want to play professionally one day.

**Favorite Jazz musician** — Emmet Cohen Trio, I like listening to his trio because they are always so locked and the solos are always surprising me.



Anthony Rankov  
Senior - Guitar

**Favorite piece from this set** — *Punching Up* - Neil Carson

**Favorite piece performed while at MHS** — *Caravan* arr. John Wasson

**Thoughts about MHS** — I love that we have such a great music program. I love music and the people at the school fuel my love for music. It's great that our band directors love what they do because then they teach better and try harder to make meaningful events happen like IMEC.

**Plans after High School** — I want to study chemical engineering because I'm very passionate about math and chemistry. I really enjoy creating products and solving problems.







*Armando Celaya*  
Alto Saxophone

*Luke Fuller*  
Trombone

*Jake Podrusan*  
Trombone

*Felix Weirich*  
Trumpet

**JOHN HERSEY HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ ENSEMBLE 1 2022-2023**

**MUNDELEIN HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ ENSEMBLE 2022-2023**

*Will Gonzales*  
Tenor Saxophone

*Eileen Jarrett*  
Bass Guitar

*Lily Little*  
Bass Trombone

*Neil Martin*  
Alto Saxophone

*Leila Moon*  
Tenor Saxophone

*Isabella Rodriguez*  
Trombone

*Mac Shifley*  
Alto Saxophone

*Fiona West*  
Trumpet | Class of '24





# JHHS Band Directors



*Spencer* Hile

JHHS DIRECTOR OF BANDS

Spencer Hile joined the Hersey band program in 2021. At Hersey, Mr. Hile teaches Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Percussion Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble 1, and the Marching Huskies. Mr. Hile also coordinates all administrative aspects of the Band Program and organizes the annual Chicagoland Invitational Concert Band Festival. He also is the founder and conductor of the Encore Wind Symphony which is a summer youth honor band composed of students from across McHenry County. Mr. Hile's interest in music began when he was required to join the band for his freshman year at Highland Park High School by his high school band director, Dr. Jim Hile. After the kicking and screaming subsided he discovered a deep appreciation for the most important instrument... Euphonium. In 2016, he graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign with a degree in Instrumental Music Education. Outside of teaching and music, he is training to run his sixth marathon, obsessing over Apple products, and questioning why he ever became a Chicago Bears fan.



*Brian* Logan

JHHS JAZZ II DIRECTOR

Brian Logan has led arts programs, from grade school through college, for more than four decades. Upon retirement from District 214, Mr. Logan worked for VanderCook College of Music in a variety of roles, including creating VanderCook's One City Jazz Program for underserved Chicagoland fifth through eighth graders. While in District 214, Mr. Logan worked at Wheeling High School as Director of Bands and Fine Arts Coordinator, earning a John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Schools of Excellence in Arts Education Award. Mr. Logan's high school wind ensemble performed numerous times at the Music for all National Concert Band Festival and U of I's Superstate Concert Band Festival. His Jazz Ensembles had numerous performances at The Midwest Clinic and toured Europe multiple times, with performances at the Umbria Jazz Festival (Italy) and Montreux Jazz Festival (Switzerland), among others. Mr. Logan received a Bachelor of Music Education from VanderCook College of Music and a Master of Educational Administration from Northeastern Illinois University. He is a member of ILMEA, NAFME, NBA, JEN, and is also an active adjudicator, clinician, guest conductor, and percussionist.



*Emily* Kuhn

JHHS JAZZ COMBO DIRECTOR

Emily Kuhn is a jazz trumpet player based in Chicago, IL, described by the Chicago Jazz Magazine as having "a charismatic style and a sophistication that belies her youth." Originally from Charlottesville, VA, Emily has made a name for herself as an active bandleader, sidewoman, composer, and educator. She released two albums via BACE Records, *Sky Stories* (2020) and *Ghosts of Us* (2023), to numerous accolades. She was named a Luminarts Fellow in Jazz in 2020. Emily leads two bands: a jazz quintet and a nine-piece chamber jazz ensemble, Helios. Outside of these projects, Emily plays regularly with a wide variety of ensembles across the jazz and Latin scenes in Chicago, including Latin fusion band Son Monarcas, Kitt Lyles' Real Talk Collective, Gustavo Cortiñas' Kind Regards, Sam Pilnick's Nonet Project, Erik Skov's Liminality, John Dorhauer's Heisenberg Uncertainty Players, and Christy Bennett's Fumée. Emily is currently the Jazz Combo Director and Improv Instructor at Hersey High School, and she has taught throughout Chicago and nationwide through MUSIC Inc., Chicago Jazz Philharmonic, Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras, and Stanford Jazz Workshop. Emily has a BM and BA in Jazz Trumpet Performance and Environmental Studies from Oberlin. She studied with renowned trumpet players Eddie Henderson, Sean Jones, John D'earth, and John Henes.

“ The JHHS Band Program to me has meant excellence in everything we do. ”  
— Jack Obrebski



# MHS Band Directors

Andy Sturgeon is in his seventeenth year as a music teacher and eleventh year at Mundelein High School. At Mundelein High School, he teaches the Honors Symphonic Winds and Freshmen Concert Band as well as the Honors Jazz Ensemble and a Beginning Guitar class. He also directs the Noise Show Choir combo and co-directs the Marching Mustangs and the Mundelein High School Pep Band.

Before coming to Mundelein High School, Mr. Sturgeon was the Director of Bands in Evergreen Park School District 124, where he taught fifth through eighth grade instrumental music students. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Concordia University. In 2022, Mr. Sturgeon was recognized with the Quinlan and Fabish Chicagoland Outstanding Music Educator Award. He is an active trombone player who played with the Northshore Concert Band for nine years. He now resides with his wife and two sons in Mundelein, IL.



*Andy* Sturgeon  
MHS DIRECTOR OF BANDS

Jerry Shelato is in his thirty-first year as a music teacher and his eleventh year on the faculty at Mundelein High School. At Mundelein High School, he teaches the Honors Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band as well as the Jazz Orchestra and Intermediate Guitar classes. He also directs the Spring Musical pit orchestra and co-directs the Marching Mustangs and the Mundelein High School Pep Band.

Mr. Shelato has previously taught in the Champaign and Urbana school districts and has taught conducting and music education methods during his years of graduate study. He holds Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Music Education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he has also completed Doctoral coursework in Music Education. There, he studied tuba with Mark Moore and conducting with Thomas Wisniewski and James Keene, and performed in the Wind Symphony, British Brass Band, and Jazz Band I. Mr. Shelato has received several Citations of Excellence from the National Band Association.



*Jerry* Shelato  
MHS DIRECTOR OF BANDS



Rich Stiles is in his fourteenth year in education and joined Mundelein High School in 2023, where he serves as the Fine Arts & CTE Department Chair. Previously, he taught music for 13 years, serving as the Director of Bands at Richmond-Burton Community High School and Woodstock High School, as well as serving as Co-Director of the Woodstock City Band. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Bassoon Performance and Music Education from the University of Iowa and a Master of Music Education Degree from the University of Illinois. He also earned his Master of Arts in Principal Preparation from Aurora University.

In 2021, Mr. Stiles received the Star 105.5 Educator of the Month Award after being nominated by students and peers. He is an active bassoonist in the Chicagoland area and resides with his wife and five children in Algonquin, IL.

*Rich* Stiles

FINE ARTS & CTE DEPARTMENT CHAIR



Kyle Mesa recently finished his Music Education Degree from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, student teaching at Mundelein High School and Daniel Wright Jr. High in the Fall of 2023. He is currently directing the jazz bands at West Oak Middle School in Mundelein, IL. Mesa has been studying Trumpet under the guidance of Professor Charles Daval and Tito Carrillo. Previous teachers include Mark Hoffman and Chuck Finton. At the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Mesa has performed with the Symphony Orchestra, the Wind Symphony, the UIUC Concert Jazz Band, the UIUC Philharmonia Orchestra, and a group called Sixth Street Brass. With the UIUC Concert Jazz Band, Mesa was able to perform at the JEN Conference in 2022. Also, Mesa performed with Christian McBride's Big Band for his "Movement Revisited" performance at the University of Illinois. Mesa was also in the musical pit for the University of Illinois Lyric Theater's production of "City of Angels."

In the northwest suburbs of Chicago, Mesa works with schools as a Trumpet Clinician. Mesa is looking to grow his personal studio and work with private students online or in person.

*Kyle* Mesa

FALL STUDENT TEACHER AND CLINICIAN





## Jazz at Hersey

Jazz Ensemble I is a curricular class that meets on the block schedule, and our Jazz Ensemble II is extracurricular and meets twice a week for two hours after school. Our jazz ensembles play two concerts at Hersey and perform at a variety of jazz festivals every year. The jazz ensembles regularly perform at the New Trier Jazz Festival, Jazz In The Meadows, Purdue Jazz Festival, and Mundelein Jazz Festival. Our Jazz Ensemble I is also very excited to perform at the 2024 Elmhurst Jazz Festival in February.

The jazz combo program at Hersey has grown tremendously in the last two years, and we now have five jazz combos. Students in Jazz Combo work with our combo director, Emily Kuhn, and play four to five concerts each year. Our fourth jazz combo is also run by students who are involved in our most advanced jazz combo. Our fifth combo is our Women in Jazz combo that is completely student-run.

Another key component of our jazz program is connecting our students with high quality professional musicians and teachers. Our students perform with a guest artist at every home concert! Every spring, our jazz ensembles perform and record an album alongside a high profile jazz artist. Our students have been lucky to work with Ingrid Jensen (2022), Melissa Aldana (2023), and Aubrey Logan (2024).

## Concert Band

All students in the band program audition for their ensemble placement at the end of October. Students are either placed in Symphonic Band or Concert Band. Students in Percussion Ensemble meet as a separate class during the block and are also assigned to perform with Symphonic or Concert Band. Symphonic Band has Wednesday night rehearsals from November-April, depending on various performance opportunities. Our concert band program is the foundation of our program, and all students must participate in our concert band in order to participate in the jazz program.

## Marching Huskies

All students enrolled in Concert Band/Symphonic Band/Percussion Ensemble participate in Marching Band from the beginning of the year until the end of October. Marching Band rehearsals take place during the school day, as well as one night rehearsal on Wednesday evenings. We have two weeks of band camp before the school year begins, as well as a variety of rehearsals in the summer in preparation for the Fourth of July Parade. Our Marching Band is competitive and performs at three competitions each year. Our season culminates in a performance at the Illinois State Marching Band Championships.





“ I could not envision my life without music and in turn without our amazing program. Even when I'm having a bad day, Band has been there to brighten my mood. — Michael Cory ”

### Concert Bands

Mundelein High School offers four concert bands, which are the core of our band program. Students continue to develop the fundamental skills of instrumental performance through participation in these groups. Each concert band meets during one period of the school day during both fall and spring semesters. Enrollment in a concert band class is a prerequisite for participation in other band program activities.

### Jazz Bands

Mundelein High School offers two jazz bands which are an important component of the MHS band program. Each jazz band rehearses for one class period and participates in concerts at the school and around the local community including the Mundelein Invitational, hosted annually by MHS Bands. Students must be enrolled in a concert band to enroll in a jazz band.

### Marching Mustangs

Marching Mustangs provides an opportunity for all MHS band students to perform together as one ensemble. The Marching Mustangs perform at each home football game, as well as at two festivals each year, and students must attend one week of Summer Marching Band Camp. Marching Band participation is required for all students enrolled in concert band classes.

## Mundelein Jazz Ensemble

The Mundelein High School Jazz Ensemble is one of two curricular jazz bands that are audition-based and open to all 9th through 12th grade students. Throughout the school year the band performs over a dozen times in a variety of venues throughout the school year, including concerts at the school, jazz festivals, and music clubs in the Chicagoland area such as Fitzgerald's Nightclub in Berwyn, Nellies in Palatine, The Venue in Aurora, and The Jazz Showcase in Chicago.

In the past several years, the Mundelein High School Jazz Ensemble has been named Honor Band at the Purdue Jazz Festival, Eau Claire Jazz Festival, has been selected to perform three times at the Illinois Music Education Conference (2016, 2020, 2024), and selected to perform at the 75th Annual Midwest Clinic (2021). Recent guest artists have included Kellin Hanas ('24), Marques Carroll ('23), Bob Lark ('23), Sharel Cassity ('22), Steve Weist ('22), Kirk Garrison ('21), Michele Fernández ('21), Chris Madsen ('21), Rob Parton ('21), and Kim Nazarian ('19).



# John Hersey High School Acknowledgments

## District 214 JHHS Staff

Dr. Scott Rowe | SUPERINTENDENT  
Dr. Heath McFaul | PRINCIPAL  
Dr. Patty Grow | ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL  
Tina Athanasopoulos | ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL  
Ron Kiobassa | ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AND FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS HEAD  
Lara Becker | FINE & PERFORMING ARTS COORDINATOR  
Joann Langley | FINE & PERFORMING ARTS ASSISTANT  
Christopher Kuzmanoff | ORCHESTRA DIRECTOR  
Sara Michael | CHORAL DIRECTOR  
John DeGroot & Staff | MAINTENANCE

## District 214 School Board

Alva Kreutzer | PRESIDENT  
Mildred "Millie" Palmer | VICE-PRESIDENT  
William J. Dussling | BOARD MEMBER  
Frank Fiarito | BOARD MEMBER  
Mark Hineman | BOARD MEMBER  
Andrea Rauch | BOARD MEMBER  
Leonard "Lenny" Walker | BOARD MEMBER



## Hersey Band Staff

Brian Logan | JAZZ ENSEMBLE II  
Emily Kuhn | JAZZ COMBO DIRECTOR  
Ilona Hutter, Adam Mead, Matt Kaempfe, Claudia Rejowski | MARCHING BAND TECHNICIANS  
Chris Kenney, Curt Schwarzkopf, Leah Murawska and Tom Leddy | PERCUSSION  
Sara Reich | COLOR GUARD INSTRUCTOR

## Hersey Music Applied Faculty

Mary McDermott, Hideko Amano | FLUTE  
Julie Koscinski | OBOE  
Andrew Marlin | BASSOON  
Judy Morrison, Darleen Carl-Beck | CLARINET  
David Fivecoate, Julian Velasco | SAXOPHONE  
Dana Sherman, Anna Mayne | FRENCH HORN  
Chris O'Hara, Candi Horton, Mark Hoffman | TRUMPET  
Jeff Livorsi | TROMBONE  
Serena Voltz | TUBA/EUPHONIUM  
Tom Leddy | PERCUSSION  
Emily Kuhn | JAZZ IMPROVISATION



## Middle School Band Directors

Camrin Severino, Garth Anderson | MACARTHUR MS  
Kaitlin Pucci, Dana Berry, Candace Horton | THOMAS MS  
Todd Smith | RIVER TRAILS MS

## Hersey Instrumental Association Executive Board

Mark Fuller | PRESIDENT  
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Rob Kanabay | TREASURER  
Amy Reed | CORRESPONDING SECRETARY  
Roxanne Pipitone | PROJECT CHAIR  
Michelle Olsen | RECORDING SECRETARY





# Mundelein High School Acknowledgments

## *Mundelein Fine Arts*

Rich Stiles | FINE ARTS & CTE DEPARTMENT CHAIR  
Jerry Shelato | BAND DIRECTOR  
Andy Sturgeon | BAND DIRECTOR  
Cory Thompson | CHOIR DIRECTOR  
Jonathan Meier | THEATRE DIRECTOR  
Brandon Curtis | AUDITORIUM MANAGER  
Ryan Jacobi | PERCUSSION INSTRUCTOR  
Kiley Billock | COLOR GUARD INSTRUCTOR

## *D120 Administration*

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Shane McCreery | ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES/LEGAL  
Dr. Anthony Kroll | ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF SPECIALIZED PROGRAMMING  
Jamie DiCarlo | ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF STUDENT SERVICES  
Stacey Gorman | ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF TEACHING AND LEARNING  
T. Rancak | CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  
Daniel Crowe | CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER  
Tina Routledge | DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES  
Kevin Quinn | DIRECTOR OF MAINTENANCE AND FACILITIES  
Peter Gill | DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS  
Kimberly Goldberg | DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION  
Gabrielle Devlin | DIRECTOR OF TEACHING AND LEARNING  
Dr. Alexandria Rios Taylor | PRINCIPAL  
Stevee Libert | ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF STUDENT LIFE  
Mike Souza | ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL OF OPERATIONS  
Troy Parola | DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

## *D120 School Board*

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Tom Ouimet | SECRETARY  
Laura Mellon | BOARD MEMBER  
Mark Ponce | BOARD MEMBER  
Aaron Wellington | BOARD MEMBER  
Lisa Yaffe | BOARD MEMBER

## *Lesson Teachers*

Sheryl DeVore | FLUTE  
Laurel Kaiser | FLUTE  
Marissa LeFevre | OBOE  
David DCamp | BASSOON  
Jen Speer | BASSOON  
Ember Miller | CLARINET  
Steve Avallone | SAXOPHONE  
Theresa Lam | SAXOPHONE  
Chris Madsen | SAXOPHONE  
Ben Voigt | SAXOPHONE  
Jim Garbrecht | TRUMPET  
Kim Muehling | TRUMPET  
Ry Muehling | TRUMPET  
Brenda Kublank | FRENCH HORN  
Colleen Bayoneto | TROMBONE  
Tim Coffman | TROMBONE  
Kendra Gohr | LOW BRASS  
Ryan Jacobi | PERCUSSION  
Bob Zaun | PIANO

## *Band Boosters*

Jennifer Vincent | PRESIDENT  
Wendy McMurray | TREASURER  
Yvonne Buisson | SECRETARY  
Kristine Asmussen, Kara Nuzzo & Sara Roberts | MARCHING UNIFORM CHAIRPERSONS  
Marie Vesely & Melanie Ferrin | CONCERT UNIFORM CHAIRPERSONS  
Heidi Gorsica & Jennifer Olorvida | HOSPITALITY CHAIRPERSONS  
Silvia Benassi | VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR  
Jennifer Jenkins | EQUIPMENT CHAIRPERSON  
Yvonne Buisson | MUNDELEIN INVITATIONAL CHAIRPERSON  
Chris Page & Heather Song | FUNDRAISING CHAIRPERSONS

## *Sender School Directors*

Moulee Gupta | CARL SANDBURG MIDDLE SCHOOL  
Bryan Itzkowitz | CARL SANDBURG MIDDLE SCHOOL JAZZ DIRECTOR  
Brent Burger | FREMONT MIDDLE SCHOOL  
Patrick Cantagallo | HAWTHORN MIDDLE SCHOOL NORTH  
Terri Plohr | HAWTHORN MIDDLE SCHOOL SOUTH  
Jessica Rosales | WEST OAK MIDDLE SCHOOL  
Kyle Mesa | WEST OAK MIDDLE SCHOOL JAZZ DIRECTOR  
Kyle Anderson | MUSIC TEACHER

## *Other Thank Yous*

Marques Carroll | CLINICIAN, GUEST ARTIST 2023  
Sharel Cassity | CLINICIAN, GUEST ARTIST 2022  
Neil Carson | CLINICIAN AND COMPOSER  
Michele Fernández | CLINICIAN  
Tito Carrillo | CLINICIAN  
Bob Lark | GUEST ARTIST 2023  
George Andrikokus | HINSDALE MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND DIRECTOR  
Michael Stryker | DIRECTOR OF JAZZ STUDIES, UIC  
Kathryn Serby | MUNDELEIN HIGH SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY TRAINER  
Hope Babowice and Heidi Gorsica | MUNDELEIN HIGH SCHOOL LITERACY CENTER SPECIALISTS  
The John Hersey High School Students and Directors!  
Mary Garbrecht | QUINLAN AND FABISH REPRESENTATIVE






# IMEC

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<https://www.herseyband.com>

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MUNDELEIN  
HIGH SCHOOL

JAZZ ENSEMBLE

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