

2025-26 Grandview Heights Band & Orchestra – Awards and Recognition

Middle School Honor Band

District 15 Honor Band:

Avery Szabo-Ramsey (grade 8)
Ben Truett (grade 8)
Olivia Lindamood (grade 7)
Onahlee Markham (grade 7)

Ohio Wesleyan Honor Band:

Ellie Bills (grade 8)
Audrey Connell (grade 8)
Avery Szabo-Ramsey (grade 8)
Ivy Edwards (grade 7)
Katie Edwards (grade 7)

Project Bridge Honor Band:

Olivia Lindamood (grade 7)
Onahlee Markham (grade 7)

Middle School Solo and Ensemble

Soloists:

Knox Boulton - percussion (grade 8)
Lexie Brown - clarinet (grade 8)
Ella Krouse - alto sax (grade 8)
Emily Warren - violin (grade 8)
Olivia Lindamood - trumpet (grade 7)
Onahlee Markham - alto sax (grade 7)
Gus Ritzman - violin (grade 7)

Ensembles:

Ellie Bills, Sylvia Lange - euphonium duet
Madi Burton, Maggie Ward - woodwind duet
Ramona Egner, Matilda Hopkins, Chloe Young - string trio

Outstanding Orchestra Student Awards

Grade 5: Jack Fellows, Natalie Pettit
Grade 6: Gwen Colahan, Harrison King
Grade 7: Selena Espinoza Alvarado, Gus Ritzman
Grade 8: Kamryn Stinson, Kaysen Stinson
High School: Axel Farnham, Darby Knapp

Louis Armstrong Jazz Band Award

The Louis Armstrong Jazz Award is presented to the outstanding graduating senior jazz band member. The recipient must demonstrate the highest levels of dedication, loyalty, character, and discipline to the jazz band program while achieving the highest musical standards required of jazz music.

The 2026 GHHS recipient of this award is:

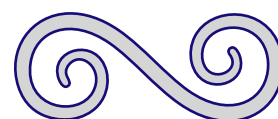
Landon Roberts

John Philip Sousa Band Award

The John Philip Sousa Band Award is presented to the outstanding graduating senior concert band member and recognizes those young musicians displaying superior musicianship, leadership, dependability, loyalty, cooperation, and other qualities of conduct which school instrumental music programs strive to impart. The Sousa award is the most prestigious nationwide prize in the school band field.

The 2026 GHHS recipient of this award is:

Jeremy Wurster



2026 Senior Recognition, by Jennifer Olis

Good evening, everyone. Thank you for joining us for an evening that is as much about people as it is about performance. While we are here to enjoy the music, we are also here to celebrate the heart of this ensemble—our seniors. These individuals haven't just played in the band; they have defined its character and left a mark on this program that will be felt long after the final note of the night fades.

This senior group holds a very personal significance for me. You were my very first freshman class when I stepped into this role at Grandview, and you stuck by me through every musical moment over the past four years. You navigated the uncertainty of a director change early in your high school career and through it all, you stayed. Your commitment laid the foundation for every success we celebrate tonight. Together, we've built a culture that we should be incredibly proud of—one that perfectly balances genuine fun with relentless hard work. Seniors, you've done an incredible job showing the younger students that you can laugh during a break, but be "all business" the moment the baton goes up. That dedication reached a pinnacle at the OMEA District Contest this year. Performing with you in the auditorium at Teays Valley and receiving a Superior rating from all three judges was a moment of pure pride. To see you earn those ones was incredible, but even more moving has been watching you grow musically more than I ever could have imagined when we first met.

(Continued below)

High School Honor Band

Capital University Honor Band:

Max McCollough (grade 11)
Mira Bondy
Isla Swisher (grade 10)

Ohio State University Honor Band:

Isla Swisher (grade 10)
Rose Ritzman (grade 9)

Ohio Wesleyan Honor Band:

Charlotte Ritzman (grade 11)
Isla Swisher (grade 10)
Rose Ritzman (grade 9)

Wright State University Honor Band:

Max McCollough (grade 11)

High School Solo and Ensemble

Soloists:

Max McCollough - horn (grade 11)
Charlotte Ritzman - flute (grade 11)
Maura Yates - cello (grade 11)
LouLou Rafailidis - violin (grade 10)
Rose Ritzman - alto sax (grade 9)
Axel Farnham - viola (grade 9)
Sydney Heren - alto sax (grade 9)

Ensembles:

Sydney Heren, Luke Lobao, Rose Ritzman, Isla Swisher - sax quartet
Maddi Barger, Charlotte Ritzman, Callie Rutter - flute trio

While your musical achievements are historic, your true legacy is found in the character you brought into our band room every single day. Through your passion and leadership, you've helped take this program to new heights, not just on the concert stage, but in how we treat one another. Quite simply, you are some of the most kind, caring, and thoughtful young people I have ever had the pleasure of teaching. Whether you were mentoring a struggling underclassman during an everyday rehearsal or simply checking in on a friend, you modeled what it means to be a teammate. You proved that you can strive for excellence while still leading with a soft heart.



As you prepare to graduate, I have a few final requests:

- **Keep music close to your heart.** It has been your constant companion here, and it can be your sanctuary for the rest of your life.
- **Perform whenever you get the chance.** Whether it's a community band, a college ensemble, or just playing in your living room—don't let your instrument gather dust.
- **Be a lifelong advocate.** Show up for other artists, buy the ticket, applaud the effort, and remain a supporter of the arts in your communities.

As we reflect on the journey—the friendships, the laughter, the challenges, and the triumphs—let us celebrate not just what you've done, but who you've become. As you step into the next chapter of your lives, we offer our deepest thanks and our most heartfelt congratulations. May the lessons you've learned and the music you've made continue to guide you. Your impact on this program is permanent, and it will never be forgotten.



Peyton Debelak
Jasper Decker
Sam Flick
Morgan Gladman
Luke Lobao
Landon Roberts
Lexy Smith
Alek Sletten
Allie Wahl
Jeremy Wurster

Class of 2026 Seniors

