

# Press Release



## **Wildcat Jazz Band Earns Superior Rating and Special Recognition at Heartland Music Festival**

The Wildcat Jazz Band, under the director of Keith Crocker, earned a Superior rating and special recognition at the Heartland Music Festival held recently at Edmond Santa Fe High School.

Concluding its first contest season, the Jazz Band received a “1” rating from all the judges and was awarded the “Judges Choice” award as the most entertaining ensemble at the festival. Also, saxophone players Rey Macias and Riley Bahnmaier were recognized for outstanding solos, and all of the saxophones earned a sectional award for their work.

The Heartland Music Festival is the largest event of its kind in the state of Oklahoma. It meets on five consecutive Saturdays with eight to ten competition venues on each date. They feature competition in concert band, choir, orchestra, and jazz band. Over 10,000 musicians participate in this festival annually.

In just the second year of the Wildcat Jazz Band, the group has grown into a full ensemble and this year has participated in several festivals and various local functions. David Christy, Ponca City Director of Bands, stated “I feel that a viable 6A band program needs to have a quality jazz program. Due to the work of Mr. Crocker and the students, that is happening.”

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