

Buchholz High musician earns spot on national honor ensemble

Junior Eddie Beck is a percussionist in the Buchholz High School and he's good—so good that he's been named to the 2018 All-National Honors Ensembles by the National Association for Music Education. He and just 550 other top young musicians from around the country will be performing with the ensembles later this month at the Coronado Springs Resort at Walt Disney World in Orlando.

Beck and six other percussionists will be rehearsing and performing with the Concert Band. He says he's looking forward to the experience.



“I’ll be meeting some really talented people and maybe getting some advice from them and see how they approach things,” he said. “It’ll be a good opportunity to make some friends in the world of percussion.”

Beck has been part of that world since he began taking piano and drum lessons at the age of five or six. Being a percussionist keeps him busy at Buchholz High, where he plays with the jazz band, the wind symphony and the marching band and also performs solo and in other ensembles. Like most other musicians, he says practice is key to his success.

“I’ve always wanted to excel at what I do,” said Beck. “So I’ve learned to practice a lot because I know that leads to improvement.”

“Eddie is extremely dedicated to becoming the best percussionist he can be,” said Buchholz High School band director Shawn Barat. “He works tirelessly to refine his craft, and this is evident in the many honors he has received.”

To earn a spot on the All-National Honors Ensembles, Beck has to first make it to the All-State level, then audition for the national level. He and the other members of the Concert Band will be rehearsing and performing under the direction of nationally recognized guest conductor and clinician Dennis Glocke.

While he plans to make his career in a STEM field, Beck says music will always be an important part of his life.

“I’ve met a lot of great people through it,” he said. “Plus there are a lot of life lessons you can get from band—working as a team, discipline, things like that.”

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