

Gainesville High student is national all-honor musician

For the fifth straight year, an Alachua County Public School musician has been selected to the prestigious All-National Honor Ensembles by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME).

Julia Lanni is one of just 119 high school musicians nationwide to be chosen through a rigorous audition process for the concert band. Lanni, who is a senior clarinet player at Gainesville High School, will be rehearsing with the band beginning November 7, culminating with a performance November 10 at the Gaylord Palms Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. A news release from NAfME refers to the students selected as “the best of the best.”



Lanni says she’s looking forward to spending time and making music with like-minded students from around the country.

“It’s going to be wonderful,” she said. “They all have different experiences, but they have that same ingrained passion for music that I have.”

Lanni has been playing the clarinet since 6th grade. She chose that particular instrument after learning that Mozart considered the clarinet to be most like the human voice.

“I think that resonates a lot with me,” she said. “I know it sounds cheesy, but I like to sing through my instrument.”

She’s done her ‘singing’ very successfully. She is the clarinet section leader and woodwind captain of the award-winning GHS band. She’s been a part of the Alachua County High School and Middle School Honor Bands since she was in 7th grade, and also qualified for the Florida All-State Bands in 8th, 10th and 11th grade. She’s a member of the prestigious Alachua County Youth Orchestra, and has won numerous individual honors. She’s also a high achieving student in GHS’ rigorous Cambridge program.

“She’s very self-motivated,” said GHS band director Bill Pirzer. “She’s always doing whatever she can to make herself better, not just with her music but with her academics as well.”

Pirzer says Lanni goes out of her way to help other young musicians reach their full potential

“Our clarinet section has benefited greatly because she’s really taken on that teacher role,” he said. “She’s just amazing when it comes to helping other students, and they really appreciate and respect her for it.”

“Everyone has to put in the work and effort that it takes to be a successful band,” said Lanni. “You can have 90% of the people who know their parts, but if there’s one person who doesn’t, you know it.

Although her college plans are not yet firm, Lanni plans to major in music. Her ultimate goal is to play with a professional orchestra.

Alachua County Public Schools has had five students chosen for the All-National Honor Ensembles since 2016.

#####