

# BHS musicians to perform in IMEA

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This year, after several Bloomington High School students auditioned for the Illinois Music Educators Association, a large number of students got accepted into the prestigious organization.

A total of 16 students from BHS were chosen to be part of the group. Six of the students made the IMEA band with one person accepted for percussion. Along with five students participating in orchestra, and four in choir.

IMEA is an organization in Illinois that chooses select students in band, orchestra, and choir to play in district bands. These district bands are selected members from different areas, or districts, of Illinois.

"IMEA is a band full of people from different schools that audition to be in it," said senior Sarah Yount.

After getting accepted this year, this will be Yount's third year participating in IMEA, for the flute, in high school. She also participated for two years in junior high.

"It's fun; I enjoy doing it," said Yount. "We play more advanced music with an advanced group of people."

Senior trumpet player Jeff Lawson had similar views as Yount.

"I enjoy IMEA because it's a place where the best musicians get together to play," said Lawson.

After auditioning and not getting accepted last year, Lawson was pleasantly surprised

this year when he was accepted.

"At first I was surprised, because it was the first time I made it," said Lawson.

Not only did Lawson get chosen, he was placed at first chair, the highest honor for a player. However, instead of participating in the IMEA band, he will be playing his trumpet in the IMEA orchestra.

Senior Harsha Bhide, a violinist, also auditioned for IMEA to see how much he has improved since previous years. This will be Bhide's fourth consecutive year participating in IMEA.

"I thought it would be interesting to see how I compared to others," said Bhide.

Sophomore Brittany Ambler auditioned for the IMEA choir. After not getting accepted last year, she was eager to learn if she got accepted.

"I was so excited when I found out I made it," said Ambler. "I called my mom from school."

Auditioning for IMEA causes a lot of preparatory work. Everyone's hard work pays off when the group meets as a whole on a Saturday. They practice all day, and end the night with a concert.

"They give you the music ahead of time," said Yount. "Then you meet on a Saturday and you practice all day, with a concert at the end."

Ambler agreed that auditioning for IMEA takes a lot of preparatory work.

"You have to learn all the songs and all the scales," said Ambler. "It takes forever."

Most everyone involved in IMEA has only positive comments to say about it.

"It's amazing," said Yount, "And I'm proud of my accomplishment."

## Gender dominated classes struggle for diversity

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It is not uncommon knowledge that some classes at Bloomington high School are dominated by a single gender. There have always been classes and fields of study that appeal to one sex but not the other.

Of the 19 students enrolled in AP Physics II, there is only one girl, senior Heidi Mott.

"Some classes only interest one gender or another," said Mott. "If they didn't do well in Physics I, they usually don't want to continue."

AP Physics II is not the only class that is dominated by a single gender. The yearbook staff is mostly female, with only two males, seniors Eric Varney and Dustyn Bennet.

"It's drama prone," said Varney. "There's lots of different hormones going on and you never know when one of the girls is going to snap."

Having classes that are predominately one gender can have negative results in both the individual students and the overall class.

"When you get in the labs, all the guys want to be with all the other guys," said Mott "You are treated different when you are the only girl"

"It makes the yearbook a little more girly because there are girls making it," said Varney.

"When I took problem solving with Java it had two girls," said senior Gosha Nickiforv, who is in AP Physics II and has taken AP Computer Programming. "Now there are no girls [in problem solving with Java]. None."

It seems most students agree that computer programming and some of the advanced science classes are more appealing to guys rather than girls while other classes have more appeal to girls. Others might be deterred because they know the class is all one gender from the start.

"Even though they might find it interesting, they might think, 'I will be the only girl' which might make them not take the course," said Nickiforv.

Students in these classes believe that class would be easier with a more balanced class.

"We would like to have more guys on the staff, so we could have two different views on everything," said Varney.



Senior Heidi Mott studies in AP Physics II with seniors Harsha Bhide and Gosha Nickiforv. The class is mostly dominated by males, with only one girl and 18 guys.