

News release



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Everett High jazz ensemble 'plays' for Savannah competition

Band competes with 11 bands from around the nation for top honors, cash awards and a chance to learn from jazz masters

This is Everett High School's first time being selected for the SWING CENTRAL JAZZ High School Jazz Band Competition and Workshop, an event produced by the Savannah Music Festival (SMF). This year, their audition tape caught the attention of festival judges. The Everett High jazz ensemble is under the direction of Megan Vinther, who started a 'traditional' jazz curriculum at Everett High four years ago. "The hard work the students have put into this during the past four years makes this honor even more exciting for me and for the students," shared Vinther.

"We were thrilled with the quality of all this year's applicants. This was our most competitive year, and it was difficult to narrow the field," says Associate Artistic Director Marcus Roberts. "Leading Swing Central Jazz is a highlight for me every year. Our group approach to instruction immerses students in big band jazz, and after three intense days, students, band directors and clinicians walk away inspired by this great art form."

Everett High School is one of 12 of the nation's top high school jazz bands have been selected to participate in the ninth annual competition and workshop in Georgia. Participating students work with jazz masters across three days, perform in the "Jazz on the River" showcase on Savannah's River Street, play in competition rounds, and attend a variety of SMF performances during their stay, from March 25 through 27, 2015. The participating bands will also go head-to-head for \$13,000 in cash awards.

In an effort to help offset the travel costs for students and their families, the jazz ensemble will perform a benefit concert on Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. at Civic Auditorium in Everett. They are also working at the Everett High PTA auction on Feb. 7 to raise money for their trip.

Want to help? See the band in action at their benefit concert – t-shirts available!

Can't make the concert? Consider making a donation directly to the [booster club online](#).

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