

## **Pennfield 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Members Awarded the 45th Annual Pennfield Band Award**

The Pennfield “Outstanding Musician” Award was presented on June 8, 2018 at the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Awards Assembly. During their middle school careers, the recipients of this award have consistently demonstrated a outstanding effort and the highest level of musicianship. Through their efforts they have served as role models in the various ensembles in which they have participated. Beginning in 2009 each recipient has received an individual engraved plaque provided through the generosity of the Montgomery County Concert Band. In 2011 the award added the honor of being named the “Paul Ferla Montgomery County Concert Band Memorial Award.” In 1995, Mr. Ferla, along with former North Penn High School Band Director and Administrator, Mr. Stephen Frederick, co-founded the MONTCO Concert Band. In the fall of 2009 Mr. Ferla passed away, initiating the first presentation of the Paul Ferla Memorial Award. The award also honors Mr. Frederick’s memory following his passing in 2013.

Mr. David Orehowsky (8-9 band and jazz band), Mr. David DiValentino, ( past 7 band, pit band) Mr. Timothy Jernigan (7 band and pit band) and Mr. Christopher Thompson (Elementary Band & Wind Ensemble) are very proud of the efforts of all of the students in the band program The 2018 recipients include: Benjamin Hartman (trombone), Jeffrey Wang (percussion), Madison Becker (clarinet, saxophone), Conner Spence (mallets, piano, percussion), and Benjamin Heck (percussion). In addition to the curricular 7-9 grade bands, the students have spanned a variety of ensembles including: Jazz Band, Wind Ensemble, Pit Band, and Honors Band.

The Montgomery County Concert Band has a significant connection to the North Penn Band Program and the community at large. The band rehearses at Pennfield on Tuesday evenings throughout the year and often shares the facility with the Pennfield Jazz Band as both groups rehearse at the same time. In April, the Montgomery County Concert Band celebrated its 19th year of providing concerts throughout Southeastern Pennsylvania. Since its inception the band has grown to include over 65 active members. Players come from a variety of daily occupations and backgrounds including among others, the field of education, homemakers, the business world, computer industry, clergy, systems analysts, students, and retirees.

Mr. Orehowsky extends his appreciation to Mr. Charles Neidhardt and the Montgomery County Concert Band for sponsoring the Pennfield Outstanding Musician Award, and for providing a quality performance opportunity for community musicians. The Montgomery County Concert Band is proof that music education promotes lifelong learning!