



PRESS RELEASE

Poway Unified School District

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Poway High School Senior Chosen for All-National Honor Ensemble, Will Represent San Diego County

(San Diego, CA) – Poway Unified School District is pleased to announce that Poway High School senior Ryan Whitson was selected to perform in the virtual All-National Honor Ensemble for the National Association for Music Education (NAfME). Ryan was also the only student chosen from San Diego County for this prestigious group.

The All-National Honor Ensembles consist of a concert band, symphony orchestra, mixed choir, jazz ensemble, guitar ensemble, and modern band. Each ensemble will create a final recorded performance that will be premiered online during the “NAfME Music In Our Schools Month®” in March 2021. Selected students will virtually rehearse a challenging repertoire in preparation for the event, and work under six of the most prominent conductors in the United States. A full list of the All-National Honor Ensemble students, including the music directors, can be found [here](#).



Photo provided by Ryan Whitson

“Being selected for the NAfME 2020 All-National Symphony Orchestra is a great honor and a dream come true. I am very excited to be working with the other members of the Symphony Orchestra to create music despite these challenging times,” Ryan said.

Ryan, a bass trombonist, is currently a member of the PHS Emerald Brigade Marching Band, Symphony Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, and Pit Orchestra. He performs under the direction of Mike Cook and Sylvester Sybilski, PHS Instrumental Music Program Directors.

“Ryan has consistently shown his dedication to his music and his ensembles,” Mike Cook said. “Even through the pandemic, he has persevered and helped encourage his classmates to continue to perform and grow as musicians.”

About the National Association for Music Education

NAfME, among the world’s largest arts education organizations, is the only association that addresses all aspects of music education. NAfME advocates at the local, state, and national levels; provides resources

for teachers, parents, and administrators; hosts professional development events; and offers a variety of opportunities for students and teachers. The Association has supported music educators at all teaching levels for more than a century.

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