

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*March 19, 2015*

### **John Pearce Performing Arts Scholarship**

*NCHS Announces Isaac Frank as First Recipient*

Naperville, IL – The first recipient of the *Naperville Central High School John Pearce Performing Arts Scholarship* is Isaac Frank. The \$1,000 award has been created as part of the Naperville Education Foundation (NEF) - [www.nef203.org](http://www.nef203.org).

The scholarship, established by the alumni of Naperville Central High School's music program, honors the 20 years (1965-1985) that John Pearce served as its choral instructor, musical director and Music Department Chairman. These former students benefitted greatly from Mr. Pearce's musical gifts, direction and discipline in the arts and have created this scholarship in his memory. The scholarship will be awarded annually to an outstanding Performing Arts graduating senior from either the NCHS band, choir or orchestra.

Isaac completed an extensive application process that included information about himself, a 500 word essay along with two letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with his work. His quality application, determined Isaac as a finalist, at which time he presented a marimba audition for the committee.

A composer, arranger, performer and teacher, Isaac Frank has been studying percussion for several years. He has also taken piano lessons since age 5. Starting in the Naperville Central Concert Band, Isaac continued to diligently practice, eventually progressing to the Wind Symphony and was in the cast of Drumshow his freshman year. He joined the Wind Ensemble his sophomore year and acquired membership in the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra Percussion Ensemble his junior year, and became part of the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra and Encore Chamber Ensemble his senior year. Currently, Isaac teaches private percussion lessons from his home studio to elementary and middle school students. He is a member of both the National Honor Society and the National Chinese Honor Society. He has been commended for National Merit Scholar.

Isaac plans on majoring in Industrial Engineering with a potential double major in Music Education. Isaac hopes to continue instructing music wherever his college education may lead him. He sincerely thanks the John Pearce Scholarship for their generous contribution to support his pursuit of music in college. Isaac also thanks his parents and brother, his peers, and especially his directors and instructors for their continued loving support during his musical journey.

"It is an absolute honor and privilege to have been selected as the first recipient of the John Pearce Scholarship and I am truly blessed to become the first in a dynasty of astounding musicians who have had the opportunity to leave a legacy of music in the lives of so many individuals as Mr. Pearce did."

Isaac will perform his solo audition as part of the Naperville Central High School band concert on May 13 where he will be acknowledged and presented with the NCHS John Pearce Performing Arts Scholarship award.

Raeleen Horn - Class of 1976 and JPPAS Steering Committee Chair - adds "This is a wonderful way to honor a great teacher by supporting our youth who plan on continuing their musical experience at the college level and beyond."

**For additional information, please contact Raeleen Horn - JPPAS Steering Committee Chair - NCHS Class of 1976 - raeleenhorn@gmail.com - 847/987-1966**

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**ABOUT US:** Naperville Community Unit School District 203 is a nationally recognized pre-K-12 school district of 16,850 students in two high schools, five junior highs, 14 elementary schools, and one early childhood center. The educational program of the Naperville 203 school district is designed to provide excellence for all students, and founded in the mission of educating students to be self-directed learners, collaborative workers, complex thinkers, quality producers, and community contributors.  
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