

Hopatcong Middle School Choir Receives Highest Award at Music Festival

On Friday, May 20th, 2011, the Hopatcong Middle School Choir competed in the High Note Music Festival in Allentown, PA. The Choir was one of many groups to perform and compete at various locations around the Allentown area that day. The students performed four songs: *Prayer for the Children*, *Walk Dem Bones!*, *Lean On Me*, and *Bless the Broken Road*. They were critiqued and rated by two esteemed judges who are well-known and highly respected throughout the music education community. The group was rated based on their performance in the categories of tone, intonation, diction, vocal technique, interpretation, balance, and musical repertoire (selections). The judges complimented the choir specifically on the attention they gave to their note attacks, duration and releases as well as their blend, balance, pitch, diction, and selection of musical repertoire. Groups are rated on a 100 point scale; with *Superior* groups receiving between 100-90 points (way above average), *Excellent* groups receiving 89-80 points (above average), and *Good* groups receiving 79-70 points (average). The *Superior* rating is only given to a select few groups who truly stand out amongst their peers as exemplary ensembles. The Choir was thrilled to receive a rating of *Superior*, which they felt truly acknowledged their hard work and dedication throughout the school year.

