

## Anderson band students earn superior/excellent ratings at Solo and Ensemble Contest



Brass Quartet will advance to TSSEC L-R Harry Heckmann, Bess Wirth, Michael Sommerdorf, and Alex Crisara

On Saturday, February 20, hordes of band students from all over central Texas competed at Solo and Ensemble Contest at Hendrickson High School in Pflugerville ISD.

Trojan Band students had quite a successful day. "We sent about 125 students and of those, 76 students received a I (Superior) ratings on their solos, with 29 of them being certified to go to State, and 35 students scored a II (Excellent Rating)" says Director of Bands Ryan Zysk. Each soloist prepares their music and performs in front of a judge for ratings and comments. Scores range from I to V with I being the best. Soloists who score a I on a memorized class 1 solo are eligible to advance to the state competition. "This is a large number of students that will represent Anderson at TSSEC," says Zysk.

Coincidentally, 76 students (representing 15 ensembles) received Superior ratings (I) on their ensembles. Twelve of the 15 ensembles qualified to compete at Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest. Ensembles must score a I on a class 1 piece to advance, but it need not be memorized. Seven of the ensembles scored a II.

"Although we give them some time in class to practice their ensembles, the students learn the bulk of this music on their own time, working as a small group or with their private lesson instructors, and it's a tribute to their desire to learn to play their instruments well," says Zysk. "Our concert bands are able to much more competitive because we have a majority of students who strive for individual excellence."

Congratulations!