



Dorchester County
Public Schools
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SUPERINTENDENT'S PRESS RELEASE

Henry V. Wagner, Jr., Superintendent

DATE: March 8, 2011

Cambridge-South Dorchester High School's Jazz Ensemble Participated in High School Jazz Ensemble Festival at UMES

Cambridge-South Dorchester High School's Jazz Ensemble students and **Mr. Rodney Lee**, band director, traveled to **University of Maryland Eastern Shore** on **Wednesday, March 2, 2011** to participate in a **High School Jazz Ensemble Festival** sponsored by **UMES Music Department**. CSD was one of five high schools from Maryland to participate. They were joined by Washington HS, Hammond HS, Kent County HS, and Arundel HS. Each school performed three musical pieces. **Dr. John Lamkin, Music Department Chair**, invited schools to participate in this unique venue where students were able to perform music they have been practicing for months.

Although the event was considered a competition, the main goal was to learn the craft of playing jazz music and to enjoy fellowship with other musicians. CSD's **Daron McKinney**, a senior, was awarded first place in the soloist category for an original improvisational piece on the lead guitar. In addition to this award given to CSD, the judges commented to Mr. Lee about the confidence that our students portrayed during the festival.

CSD's student participants were: **Nathan Duran, Karih Farmer, Wesley Insley, BayShawn Jones-Stewart, Eric Kane, Daron McKinney, Zhaden Myster, Sean O'Connor, Andrew Schnoor, and Jay Mitchell Simmons**. Please visit the below website in order to learn more about the event and see the students in action.

<http://www.delmarvanow.com/videonetwork/810723533001/UMES-High-School-Jazz-Ensemble-Festival>