

## IMPRESSIVE ACCOLADES FOR MUSIC DEPARTMENT

On April 26<sup>th</sup>, the Barker High School Concert Band performed for two judges at NYSSMA (New York State Student Music Association). The Band received a Gold Rating by demonstrating an outstanding level of technical and artistic skill.

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Barker Junior High Concert Band competed at the Darien Lake Music Festival. The Band performed in front of a judge and scored a 97.4 out of 100 to win 1st place in Division AA. Their selection was a Level 3-4 Music Difficulty. Level 6 is the most challenging that a group can perform.



On May 27<sup>th</sup> at the Kenny Awards at Shea's Buffalo, the Barker Jr.-Sr. High School cast and crew of "Cinderella" won the highest award given - Outstanding Musical Production. Barker and 9 other schools (Amherst, Lockport, Iroquois, Maple Grove, Maryvale, Nardin Academy, North Tonawanda, Pine Valley, and West Seneca West) were adjudicated by 10 judges at their full-length productions during the course of the school year. Ms. Cheryl Johnson, Musical Director, stated, "The award is very prestigious in the WNY high school musical theater world. There are 46 of these types of programs across the entire USA. Carlisle Lipke, the Director of the Kenny Awards program, informed me that, 'Barker is the little engine that could.'"



In addition to the highest award given, Barker was also presented with Kenny Awards for Outstanding Dramatic Performance and Outstanding Costumes.

On June 12<sup>th</sup> a Kenny Awards Presentation Assembly took place in the auditorium. Many students and staff were in attendance to share in the excitement as Kenny Awards officials presented the final segment of the award to the cast & crew. A check for \$10,000 to be utilized for the Barker Musical Theater program was accepted at the assembly.



(Top-Bottom & L-R): **Chloe Duchow & Melodi Murphy** accept the Darien Lake Music Festival plaque, the Cinderella cast & crew win the Kenny Award for Outstanding Musical Production, **Shelby Dauphinee & Connor Dwyer** accept the \$10,000 Kenny Award, Kenny Awards on display before distribution to cast & crew.