



Cheshire High School Band Parents' Association, Inc.

NEWS RELEASE

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CHESHIRE – Having won the 2005 Group V All States Championship in the United States Scholastic Band Association (USSBA) competition, the 122 members of the Cheshire High School Marching Ram Band have begun their pre-season camp with a simple mantra: Repeat.

But defending the hard-won title won't be simple and that's the message that Band Director John Kuhner and his staff are trying to impart to band members as they prepare this year's field show for the opening competition on Sept. 16th at Waterford High School.

"It's nice to have finished in first place, but once you get to the first show, you're only as good as your last performance in the judges' eyes," Kuhner said.

The theme of this year's field show is "Frames," said Mickey Kelly, show coordinator for the Ram Band. The show will incorporate frames as physical props as well as a formation that members of the band and color guard will get into, Kelly said.

"The music for the show is inspired by an artist, M.C. Escher," Kelly said, referring to a Dutch graphic artist whose work was often inspired by mathematics. "We've just taken it to a different level."

Getting to that level requires hard work from band members, who must learn both the music for the field show as well as the marching drills that go along with it. That's especially true for the 30 freshmen who are part of the Ram Band for the first time.

"When you have a mix of freshmen kids and experienced kids, you're only going to be as good as the freshmen," Kelly said of the need for the ninth grade band members to become quick studies. "But this is a process and they've already learned a lot at this point."

(Note to media: The Ram Band is in its second and final week of pre-season band camp, which is being held at Cheshire High School. Photo opportunities of practice are available from 2 p.m. – 5 p.m. and from 7:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. through Thursday evening and from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday. Evenings are preferable because the whole group will be assembled.)