



Cheshire High School Band
Parents' Association, Inc.

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CHS Marching Band Takes Top Connecticut Score In New England Competition

Ram Band Also Garners Connecticut's Division IV Banner At This Week-end's USSBA Contest

Cheshire, CT – The Cheshire High School Marching Ram Band received a score of 95.15 at the New England States Championship of the US Scholastic Band Association this past Saturday at Veteran's Stadium in New Britain, CT. Cheshire's score was the highest out of the 18 Connecticut high school bands taking part in the competition. The Ram Band's color guard unit was further distinguished as the Best Division IV Color Guard in the competition.

The stormy weather forecast for Saturday forced the USSBA to push up the start time of the competition twice in an effort to beat the rain. The wind and intermittent sprinkles proved to be a challenge for color guards throughout the competition however, all 29 New England bands were able to perform before the rain began. It started to rain heavily as the awards ceremony began, but the wet conditions didn't damper the excitement of the bands and the audience who anxiously awaited the results of the seven-hour event.

"These kids work so hard and are extremely driven - I knew they would perform well," said Assistant Director Greg Bell of the Marching Rams. "If they weren't the committed performers they are, there is nothing the staff could have done to get them this far. In the end, they earned this distinction themselves."

The band's score jumped over 5 points from the previous week, demonstrating the group's determination to continue improving throughout their season. Every week, the band's field show is edited by the director, John Kuhner, and his staff, based on feedback from the judges at the previous week's competition. The students must master these changes to the music or marching within days since they compete every week-end during the fall. Hard work and team spirit have brought the Cheshire band rising scores week after week all season.

The band is now focusing on the USSBA's Northern States Championship on November 2nd in Allentown, PA. Their final competition of the season will be the

Musical Arts Conference Championships on November 8th at Kennedy Stadium in Bridgeport, CT.

The band's 2008 field show is entitled "C2 Code" and features an outstanding musical score by noted arranger and composer Frank Sullivan. This musical masterpiece, well suited to Cheshire's avant-garde style, delivers a spectacular musical and visual interpretation of the evolution of communication, starting with the Morse code and then progressing to the present computer age of binary code. The field show includes four movements and features powerful techno-percussion effects as well as the band's award-winning color guard.

About the CHS Marching Ram Band

The 2008 Marching Ram Band, under the direction of John Kuhner, is considered one of the top high school marching bands in the Northeast. The band is a member of the US Scholastic Band Association and competes in its Class IV division. The Marching Ram Band is also a member of the Musical Arts Conference. In recent years, the CHS Marching Band has participated in Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, the Tournament of Roses Parade, and the 53rd Presidential Inaugural Parade. The Ram Band has been the Champion of its USSBA Division in five of the last nine years and won the 2007 Outback Bowl Grand Championship. Visit www.ramband.com for more information.

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