



Cheshire High School Band Parents' Association, Inc.

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Cheshire High School's Marching Band Ends Its Season On A High Note ***Ram Band Delivers Exceptional Performances At Both Of Its Championship Competitions***

Cheshire, CT – The Cheshire High School Marching Ram Band received high honors at its two final performances of the 2008 season. The band placed second in Division V of the November 2nd US Scholastic Band Association's Northern States Competition and then captured first place in Division IV at the Musical Arts Conference Championship the following week-end. The Ram Band competes in two competitive circuits so that the students and staff can receive feedback from a wider range of adjudicators, and also so that they can experience the many outstanding high school bands that only participate in one circuit or the other.

"We took a chance this year with a very different type of field show. The performance was extremely contemporary with an abstract theme based on the evolution of code," said Director John Kuhner of the Marching Rams. "Plus, we added electronic elements this year for the first time, with a techno-percussion effect. All of these features made the show quite unusual, but it also meant that to pull it off the students needed to execute at very high standards. It ended up paying off for us in the end because the students performed with confidence, allowing us to finish well at these competitive end-of-season championships."

The band traveled to Allentown, Pennsylvania for the US Scholastic Band Association's Northern States Competition on November 2nd after back-to-back shows at Bunnel High School in Stratford and Norwalk High School the day before. The week-end schedule was demanding however, the momentum from their show-winning performances at both of those two local venues on Saturday carried over into Sunday, with the Cheshire Band placing second in its USSBA division, ahead of bands from New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania. The Ram Band was further distinguished with the top Division V scores in the categories of Ensemble Music and Color Guard.

"Mr. Kuhner and the rest of the band staff told us all season that the Northern States Championship was what we were working for," said sophomore trumpet player Teddy Scott. "The intensity of competition at that show is so high that for us to finish

second was just unbelievable. Considering how good the other bands were, I felt it was a real accomplishment for us to do so well.”

The following week-end, the band competed at Kennedy Stadium in Bridgeport at the Musical Arts Conference Season Championships where they swept their division with the overall first place award as well as top prize in their class for general effect, marching, music, percussion, and color guard. The Ram Band cheered louder and louder with each Division IV award that was announced, and the Cheshire student section completely erupted when their band was given the overall top prize in their division.

“I couldn't have asked for a better ending to my four years in band than placing first at the MAC Championships,” commented Drum Major (and senior) Alexa Baranoski. “I started out as a band roadie helping load and unload equipment before I got to high school, and then I was a member of the color guard for my first three years. This year, as drum major, I watched as the show got better and better every week. These four years have been a crazy ride, but I wouldn't want to be a part of any other band.”

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.

Photo Information

Caption for submitted photo: Ram Band Members Vicki Stuart (left) and Andrea Wild (right) join Drum Major Alexa Baranoski in celebrating the band's first place finish at the 2008 MAC Championship in Bridgeport.

Additional photos from both championship competitions available upon request.

MEDIA CONTACT

For interview requests, or other media support, please contact:

Lynn Scott – 203-272-9061 – marketingalacarte@cox.net