

Each year, ***Music In Motion*** is dedicated to someone whose work has had a significant impact on our town's music program and the youth it serves.

Although next year will mark his 10-year anniversary with the band, we simply could not wait another year for this landmark to express our gratitude to the person who has elevated Cheshire High School and the Marching Ram Band to state and national recognition. Because of him, the town's entire K-12 music program has grown and become more vibrant, being recognized as one of the "100 Best Communities for Music Education in America" for the past four years. Through his leadership, our high school marching band has gained the admiration of marching band programs across the Northeast. For all of this and so much more, we are dedicating the 2009 ***Music In Motion*** Show to our band director, John Kuhner.

John Quincy Adams, the 6th President of the United States, once said, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, to learn more, to do more and to become more, you are a leader." All of us who are part of the Cheshire music education community – students, colleagues, and parents alike - would agree that these words describe our band director, John Kuhner.



***"A teacher affects eternity;
he can never tell where his
influence stops."***

~ Henry Brooks Adams, historian

Under John's leadership since 2001, the Marching Ram Band has dreamed more, learned more, done more, and become more than any of his students or band parents thought was possible. Over the past nine years, the band has enjoyed critical acclaim, being crowned USSBA State Champion seven times and taking home five first-place USSBA Division Titles. The band also was invited to compete or exhibit at many once-in-a-lifetime events like the 2007 Outback Bowl Parade and Field Show, where they were crowned Grand Champions. John's musical expertise and his capabilities as an educator shine through every one of these achievements. They would not have happened without his determination, innovation, and unending commitment.

Naturally, all of these honors provided excitement and pride for band members. However, there is a more important reason why John means so much to all of us. It is the immeasurable life lessons that he has taught our children by being what students describe as much more than a teacher, but also a mentor and a friend. One former band member summed up the deep influence that John has had on him like this: "I am a different person today because of the Cheshire High School Music experience. Mr. K. pushed me farther than I thought I could ever go. He always set goals high, and because of that, I am now willing to take on challenges that I never thought I could."

John, we appreciate your dedication and hard work on behalf of the Cheshire High Marching Band, the town's many music programs, and mostly importantly, our children. Thank you for your countless hours, endless passion, and extra effort. When you came to Cheshire nine years ago, we knew we were getting a talented musical director. Little did we know that we were also getting a remarkable role model and mentor for our children. They will never forget their musical achievements that were a result of your teaching and leadership. In their hearts they will always remember the kind of person you were and they will be better human beings because of their time with you. For that - most of all - we thank you and honor you tonight.