



Cheshire High School Band
Parents' Association, Inc.

**For Immediate Release
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Ram Band Number One in the State for the 9th Consecutive Year

Cheshire, CT - The Cheshire High School Marching Band came out on top at the U.S. Scholastic Band Association's New England States Marching Band Competition this Tuesday. The Ram Band competed against 7 other Class III USSBA bands from Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island at New Britain's Veterans Memorial Stadium and came away as the Connecticut champion as well as Overall New England States winner in their division. Cheshire was the hands-down winner in Class III, scoring 4.65 points higher than any other band in the division and sweeping every individual Class III category award (in Best Music, Marching, Color Guard, Percussion, and Overall Effect) along with the overall New England Class III title.

"No matter what we throw at the band this year they keep achieving excellence," said John Kuhner, the Ram Band's director. "There have been many internal and external challenges that the band has faced this season but this group is so resilient. We have an unusually large segment of first-years in this group and this large stadium was a very different environment for them but they rose to the occasion once again. We all are looking forward to the remaining championship competitions of the season and with experience now on our side, we're enthusiastic about the band's further potential over the next few years."

As has been the case for so many of the Ram Band's competitions this season, rainy weather was a main factor in the New England States Show. The competition was originally scheduled for Saturday, October 24th however, event organizers pushed the date a few days because of forecasted rain that day. On October 27th, the new show date, rain greeted Cheshire students as they headed to school, with band members wondering if the skies would clear by evening for the competition.

By Tuesday afternoon, the rain stopped and the only remaining question was if the wet field was in good enough condition for a marching band competition or if the bands would have to perform standstill as they did for the 2007 New England Championship. Preparations for the evening event were already well underway with judges onsite from as far away as Maryland and students from out-of-state boarding buses for New Britain. After months of field show practice leading up to the event, standstills are a big disappointment for bands. But the USSBA had luck on its side

on Tuesday and they was cleared for the field show event with only some minor field work (such as repainting of hash marks and field lines) needing to be done to ready the field.

The Ram Band is preparing for its final USSBA championship event, the Northern States Competition in Allentown, Pennsylvania on Sunday, November 1st. The championship competition for the other circuit that the Ram Band competes in, the Musical Arts Conference, will wrap up the band's season on November 14th in Bridgeport. For more details on the band's schedule for the remainder of the season, visit ramband.com.

About the CHS Marching Ram Band

The 2009 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, finishing first in the Connecticut Division in last year's USSBA New England Championship and second in Division V at the USSBA's Northern States Competition. The Marching Ram Band is also a member of the Musical Arts Conference and placed first at the 2008 MAC Championship in the Division IV group. 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 ten years and won the 2007 Outback Bowl Grand Championship. Visit www.ramband.com for more information.



Drum Major Rui Wang celebrates winning the 2009 USSBA Division III Connecticut Crown with Ram Band members.

About the Ram Band's 2009 Field Show and Music Repertoire

The Ram Band's 2009 Field Show, "**Buggin' Out**," features an outstanding original musical score by noted arranger and composer, John Meehan. The complex work is a spectacular musical and visual interpretation of life from a bug's perspective. A full complement of props, costumes, and visual effects makes the beautiful music and motion come to life for a memorable field show. The First Movement, **The Anthill**, opens with ants coming out of their anthill on a quest for food. They discover a bountiful banquet at a picnic and the celebration begins. The Second Movement, **The Garden**, features Cheshire's award-winning color guard as butterflies in enchanting and exquisite flight through a garden. And finally, the Third Movement, **The Web**, begins with a percussion feature where ensemble members get caught in a black widow spider's web. The Third Movement ends with all of the bugs returning to a blissful celebration full of festive merriment.

MEDIA CONTACT

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