



Cheshire High School Band
Parents' Association, Inc.

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Ram Band Tops Off USSBA Season with Win at Northern States Competition

Cheshire, CT - The Cheshire High School Marching Band wrapped up their 2009 USSBA season by taking first place in its division at the United States Scholastic Band Association's Northern States Marching Band Competition in Allentown, Pennsylvania on November 1st. The Ram Band competed against 10 other Class III USSBA bands from four states at J. Birney Crum Stadium on Sunday and came away as the Northern States winner in their division. Cheshire was the decisive winner in Class III, earning an impressive 97.538 (out of 100 points), a score that was 2 points higher than their closest division competitor and also was one of the highest scores at the USSBA 2009 Northern States competition across all divisions. Additionally, the Ram Band brought home top awards for Best Music, Best Color Guard, Best Percussion, and Best Overall Effect in Class III.

"What a way to end the USSBA season," said John Kuhner, the Ram Band's director. "Every year we look towards the Northern States Competition as our toughest challenge. We compete against top bands that we have never faced until that night and we know every one of those bands has been working as hard as we have. It's always an exciting night with the large stadium, new competitors, and excellent performances – so coming out on top in our division is just icing on the cake for all of us. From top to bottom, the band's performance was magical."

The competition fell on Halloween week-end this year so, while band members' friends were planning for parties or making costumes on Saturday, the Ram Band was getting in one more practice. With several students missing recent rehearsals due to illness over the past few weeks, the band worked on staying focused for a strong performance even if students were missing for the competition the next day. Every band member is trained to perform his or her individual best – both in marching and musical execution – even if students are missing from formations or from their instrument section. As it turns out, there were only 3 students who didn't make it for the Allentown show but the band was well prepared regardless.

The Cheshire High Marching Band performed remarkably well all season in the USSBA marching band circuit. In fact, the Ram Band was the overall show winner at

regular season competitions at both Lyman Hall and Southington High School, beating out bands in higher classes to take each show's top prize. More recently, the band was crowned the 2009 Connecticut Champion and 2009 New England Champion for Division III at the USSBA's New England States Show.

The Ram Band still has two more weeks of competition in the second circuit it competes in, the Musical Arts Conference. The MAC Championship will take place 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.



The Cheshire High School Marching Ram Band celebrates being crowned the Division III Northern States Champion: Derek Suarez, Elizabeth Beale, Drum Major Rui Wang, Holly Wonneberger, Cristina Garbalosa, and Christian Quinit (left to right.)

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.

Photo Information

Caption for submitted images:

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MEDIA CONTACT

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