

Northmont Marching Band participates in both local and regional competitions

The Northmont Marching Band started the 2008 competition season by performing at the Tipp City Invitational on Saturday, Sept. 13. Then, this past Saturday, the band competed in a Bands of America Regional held at the Centerville High School Stadium.



The Tipp City Invitational was an Ohio Music

Education (OMEA) sanctioned event. The following bands (in performance order) performed in class AA (largest class): Hamilton, Middletown, Springboro, Kettering Fairmont, Lakota West, and Northmont.

Northmont performed their 2008 show "No Strings Attached." The Color Guard sets up for the show as "lifeless puppets" in various positions on a series of 8 large wooden carts. A bell chime then sounds to begin the show and announces the lifeless conditions. Then during a flute solo, the Color Guard members begin moving and testing their limbs as they move off the carts and onto field level. The band joins in and Part I explores the new found movement.

At the end of Part I, the whole band bends over lifeless with silence. Then Part II begins with band members gaining movement from a series of "wind up twisting" sounds. Finally a flute solo and a bell chime end Part II (and the show) the same as it had begun.

Lakota West took home the Grand Champion (all classes) trophy along with 1st Place (class AA), Best Music & Best General Effect Awards (both all classes). Northmont placed 2nd and received the awards for Best Visual (all classes) and Outstanding Auxiliary (class AA). Springboro placed 3rd in class AA and Kettering Fairmont received the Outstanding Percussion trophy for class AA.

The Bands of America Regional held in Centerville was comprised of 15 bands from five states. There were eight from Ohio, three from Kentucky, two from Indiana and one each from Illinois & Missouri.

The bands first played in the afternoon in a preliminary round. At the conclusion of the 15 band preliminary, class awards were presented based on school enrollment size. Northmont competed in class AAA and placed 3rd. Centerville won the outstanding music, visual & general effect awards and took 1st place. Center Grove from Indiana placed 2nd in AAA.

All 15 bands were invited back for the evening finals. The finals were an "Open" competition not based on class size. At its conclusion, the bands lined up on the field for the awards & final placement scores. All three awards for outstanding music, visual & general effect went to Centerville. Placements with scores were then announced for the top 10 bands as follows: Centerville first (80.4), Center Grove (IN) second (78.3), Norwell (IN) third (76.45), Bellbrook fourth (73.25), Central Crossing (Col. area) fifth (72.8), Northmont sixth (72.35), Sycamore (Cinn. area) seventh (68.75), Kings (Cinn. area) eighth (65.7), Lincoln-Way North (IL) ninth (65.3) and Francis Howell North (MO) tenth (64.3). It is noteworthy to point out that the scores separating 6th place (Northmont) and 4th was just .90 points.

This Saturday, the Northmont Marching Band will travel to Cincinnati for two band contests. In the afternoon, they will perform at the Roger Bacon Invitational and in the evening, they will perform at the Loveland Invitational.

Photo submitted