

Menifee County

Band students perform with pride despite limited resources

By Kym King News Reporter

Menifee County Band Director Dana Copeland loves playing wind instruments and being able to share her own passion for playing musical instruments with children is even more rewarding. Copeland started in band when she was in the 5th grade and played the saxophone but decided to switch to the bassoon when she was in 7th grade. She received her bachelor's degree in music education at the University of Louisville and her master's in music education at Morehead State University. Despite the challenges of limited resources, Copeland believes her band students have a lot of potential.

"There is a lot of potential. Menifee County has a limited amount of resources available, so students usually only go as far as the school band class can take them. Bigger communities have private teachers, colleges, other schools to help with their music departments," Copeland said. "Some of our middle school students will be attending the Eastern Kentucky University Middle School Honors Band on Monday, Nov. 23 at 7 p.m. as well as a performance at the nursing home during the Christmas parade festivities and a spring concert in April. The middle school band students will be just a busy with fall concert on Nov. 19, and a Christmas performance on Dec. 15. "We have started a high school percussion group this fall to perform at the ball games. They are called the Rhythm Hats (unless we come up with something better). Their roll is to have lots of school spirit and to support the cheerleaders," Copeland said.

making audition tapes for the Morehead State University Band Clinic which is held in February. Our 7th and 8th grade bands will be participating in the District Band Assessment Festival in April," Copeland said. Performing at concerts is a huge part of being in band and Copeland has scheduled several performance concerts for her band students. A fall concert given by high school students will be held on Monday, Nov. 23 at 7 p.m. as well as a performance at the nursing home during the Christmas parade festivities and a spring concert in April. The middle school band students will be just a busy with fall concert on Nov. 19, and a Christmas performance on Dec. 15. "We have started a high school percussion group this fall to perform at the ball games. They are called the Rhythm Hats (unless we come up with something better). Their roll is to have lots of school spirit and to support the cheerleaders," Copeland said.

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Menifee County

To march and be heard

The marching band originated with traveling musicians who performed together at festivals and celebrations throughout the ancient world. It evolved and became more structured within the armies of the early city-states, becoming the basis for the military band, from which the modern marching band emerged. As musicians became less important in directing the movement of troops on the battlefield, the bands moved into increasingly ceremonial roles: an intermediate step was the "band of the day" which performed at military functions, and the modern brass band, which also evolved out of the military tradition. Many military traditions survive in modern marching bands. Bands that march in formation will often be ordered to "dress their ranks" and "cover down their files." They may be called to "attention," and given orders such as "about face" and "forward march." Uniforms of many marching bands still resemble military uniforms. Outside of police and military organizations, modern marching band is most commonly associated with American football, specifically the halftime show. Many U.S. universities had bands before the twentieth century. The first modern halftime show by a marching band at a football game was by the University of Illinois Marching Illini in 1907 at a game against the University of Chicago. The same year, the first marching band at a football field was the "Black 11" created by Paul Spotts Emrick, director of the Purdue All-American Marching Band. Spotts had seen a flock of birds decide that a band could replicate the action in the form of show formations. Florida State Marching Chiefs, the largest collegiate marching band in the world, appeared at roughly the same time as the field show and marching in formations was the fight song. University fight songs are often closely associated with a university's band. Many of the more recognizable and popular fight songs are widely utilized by high schools across the country. Three university fight songs commonly used by high schools are the University of Michigan's "The Victors", the University of Notre Dame's "Victory March", and the United States Naval Academy's "Anchors Aweigh". Other changes in marching band have been: • adoption of the tradition by secondary schools (high schools, junior high schools, and middle schools) • the addition of a dance line and baton twirlers/majorettes • the addition of color guard members

Since the inception of Drum Corps International in the 1970s, many marching bands that perform field shows have adopted changes to the activity that parallel developments with modern drum and bugle corps. These bands are said to be corps-style bands. Changes adopted from drum corps include: • marching style: instead of a traditional high step, drum corps tend to march with a fluid roll step to keep musicians' bodies completely still (see below) • the adaptation of the flag, rifle, and sabre units into "auxiliaries", who march with the band and provide visual flair by spinning and tossing flags or mock weapons and using dance in the performance • moving marching timpani and keyboard percussion into a stationary sideline percussion section ("pit"), which has since incorporated many different types of percussion instruments such as: Tambourines, Crash Cymbals, Suspended Cymbals, Bass Drum and Gong Sets, Chimes, EWI (Electronic Woodwind instrument), and most Keyboards

Marching band competitions are judged using criteria similar to the criteria used in drum corps competitions, with emphasis on individual aspects of the band's performance. Visual performance, percussion, and keyboard percussion into a stationary sideline percussion section ("pit"), which has since incorporated many different types of percussion instruments such as: Tambourines, Crash Cymbals, Suspended Cymbals, Bass Drum and Gong Sets, Chimes, EWI (Electronic Woodwind instrument), and most Keyboards

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