

Bath County High School Symphonic Band Wins Again

For the past several years the Bath County High School band has completed its competition in many surrounding states. Out of the past five competitions the band has come home with four first place and four grand champion trophies. Most judges are impressed to know where Bath County is located and then hear how mature of a band the school has. Flattering comments about appearance, attitude, musical repertoire, musicality and discipline have left lasting impressions on all who have heard the band.

In the spring of 2009, the band traveled to Gatlinburg, TN for a few day adventure that included white water rafting, an early morning composition, hiking in the Smoky Mountains, and a day at Dollywood. The band participated in the Federal Concert Band Competition and received First Place Concert Band Class A and Best Overall Concert Band. The hard work and anticipation of putting on a good performance before the top in what makes the trip worth it, winning is just icing on the cake.

Bath County Seniors



(Left) The Bath County High School Band has seen much success and growth over the past few years. This success comes from talented, dedicated, hard working students who rise to the top in and out of the music world. The senior class of 2010 are some of the most talented musicians Bath County has seen. Morgan Abrams, Jake Bowers, Haley Sanders, Derek Griffith, Ronnie Showalter, Zach Carmichael and Krista Charles have all put in the hours upon hours of extra time to make a great band program. Bath County Schools thank you for all you have given to the band, school and community.

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The Sound of music is alive and well in Bath County

By Kym King
News Reporter

The sound of music is alive and well at Bath County High School and band director Savannah Taylor is proud of all the hard work her students have put into their music. "Bath County High School has lots of talented musicians that are fortunate enough to have the opportunity to be in an established organization like the Bath County Band," Taylor said. "However, this does not come without lots of work. Any school or student ability is directly linked to how hard they have worked at their craft." Taylor started out with a small number of band students when she first came

to Bath County High School eight years ago, but is thrilled to have a much larger group of musicians to work with today. "When I took the job at Bath County High School 8 years ago I was unaware that the high school band only had four members. I find it funny now, but then I was fresh college graduate ready to conquer the world and I only had three flutes and a trombone to work with. I don't even know how I survived the first few years of growth. However, I can say for sure that the Bath County High School is alive, large and doing very well," Taylor said. With a love for music Taylor says her background as a band student has served her well. "I started playing trumpet in a very small middle school called New Haven Middle School, I think there were 60 people in my grade. When I got to high school my band director asked if I would switch to French Horn and I have been a horn player ever since. I went to the University of Kentucky after graduating from high school where I was in the marching band, wind ensemble and orchestra for several years. Since college I have gotten a masters degree in music education with an emphasis on French horn performance. I play with a brass quintet called the Sterling Brass located out of Mount Sterling, KY and I also sing with a few community choirs. Music has always been a huge part of my life, it is what makes me...well me," Taylor said. For Taylor being a band director is a way for her to make a difference in the

world. "I believe that everybody in the world has a purpose, and my purpose has always been to make a difference in this world (even if it is just a little one). I don't teach music for the glory. I teach music because I see the outstanding results children receive from music education. I can't lie and not say that the feeling of standing in front of a great high school band, soaking in a lot of awesome sounds, is not thrilling in itself, but it is the idea of what my students' future will be that makes me motivated to be a music teacher," Taylor said. In addition to teaching high school musicians, Taylor also team teaches at the Bath County Middle School. "I team teach beginning band with another awesome

teacher Mrs. Jennifer Bowling and then I teach percussion ensemble, music theory and the band at the high school," Taylor said. When asked what her greatest challenges as a band director have been so far, Taylor was quick to point out one of the proudest moments she has been able to share with her band students. "In 2006, I took the high school band to Virginia Beach to play in a competitive concert band festival. I never expect to win when we go to these things, and I never think that we are ready to perform a great program for distinguished judges. The band did their performance, and it was pretty good. We all got changed out of our concert attire and loaded the bus to go on with our day. The bus was stopped by one of the administrators of the festival and asked me to come with her. Of course this is every teacher's nightmare, I was ready to hear what crazy thing one of the band kids did," Taylor said. "But standing around the back of the building was

one of the competition judges. He told me that he couldn't let me walk away without telling me how amazed he was at my band. He knew where Bath County was, he had actually heard the band long ago, and loved how technically and lyrically accurate the band was. He told me that Bath County was very lucky to find someone like me and let me know that there needed to be more band directors out there like me. Before that moment I never knew I was good at what I did. Mr. Carl Bly later sent an email to me that stated that Bath County High School Band was one of his favorite bands out of the entire concert band festivals he judged that season. Yes, we did win 1st place Concert Band in Class A Best Overall Concert Band and won the Spirit de Corps award that is given to only one ensemble at the entire festival. From that moment on the Bath County High School Band had a new logo...we are The Sound of Endless Possibilities."

Upcoming Calendars for the Bath County High School Band

- One thing is for sure if you are a member of a high school band, you stay busy. Between practicing at home, practicing after school, auditions, football games, basketball games, private lessons, parades and community events it is no wonder why band students know how to get things done in life. Here is a list of upcoming events for the Bath County High School Band:
- November 5th.....Mock auditions for All District Auditions
- 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm in BCHS band room
- November 12th.....All District Auditions at Rowan County High School
- 4:30 pm - 10:00 pm
- November 16th.....All State Auditions Round 1 at Rowan County High School
- 4:30 pm - 9:00 pm
- November 17th.....CAT BASH (basketball season kick-off)
- 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm
- November 21st.....Sharpsburg Christmas Parade
- 11:00 am at Bath County High School
- Parade starts at 1:00 pm
- December 1st and 2nd.....A Night at the Movies recording
- December 10th.....Holiday Concert at BCHS
- 7:00 pm
- December 12th.....2nd Round All State Auditions at John Hardin High School



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