

LDHS Raider Band finishes season victoriously

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Editor-in-Chief

The LDHS Raider Band took spectators back to their childhoods as they performed their show, "Imagine," based on the Pure Imagination Melody from Willy Wonka.

Saturday, Oct. 24, the Raider Band competed in the 4A Upperstate Championship at Woodmont High School.

The band placed fifth out of 13 bands

at Upperstate and earned a Superior rating. Since they placed in the top six bands, they advanced to 4A State Championship.

Band members felt honored to advance to State.

"It was very emotional to make it to the State Championship because we put a lot into the program. Then to compete at the biggest competition that you can compete in as a high schooler, it was just overwhelming," senior Ayana Franklin said.

Out of the 13 bands which competed in the 4A division, the Raiders placed 10th.

"Standing on the field in full retreat, not hearing our name until the top 10 was amazing! I'm proud to be a part of something so great," senior Daja Henderson said.

Senior band members are proud to end their final band season doing as well as they did.

"I had a great last time

performing at State with a great bunch of people," Drum Major Walter Parson said.

This band season was the third in a row in which the Raider Band made it to the State Championship.

"Making it to State for three years in a row was particularly special to me because I've been in leadership for those three years. Helping train and teach to improve my section in order for us to compete on this level has been an achievement and a memory to last forever," senior DeMarcus Shabazz said.

After State, the Raider Band competed in the Loris Band Day competition Saturday, Oct. 7.

The band won a Superior rating in each category, resulting in its winning first place overall. They placed first in Percussion and Horn Line, as well as earned second place in Color Guard and in Drum Major.

The Raiders finished in first place among the three other bands in their

class.

For most seniors in band, the reality of senior year's coming to an end is becoming all too real.

"Knowing that this was my last competition with the Raider band made the win that much more emotional and meaningful to me," senior Ayana Franklin said.

"When I played my last note of the show for the final time, it finally hit me that it was my last time taking the field in a competitive setting as a part of the Raider Band. It was saddening, but it felt great to be a Grand

Champion the last time we performed," Henderson said.

"Winning felt really great to me because it made me feel like I helped to make the band better and that I mattered and contributed to our outstanding season," senior Devin Holliday said.

"I'm glad we finished off the season as champions. Knowing that this was my last competition with the Raider Band made the win that much more emotional and meaningful to me," Franklin said.

The Raider Band ended its competitive season Saturday at Loris when it walked out of the stadium as Grand Champions.



Photo by Andy Entrekin

LDHS Raider Band seniors, along with one member of the Raider Color Guard, pose with their trophies at their competition at Loris High School.