

Band To March, Perform In Macy's Day Parade

Julia Lako

The Nation Ford High School Band will be marching in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City on Nov. 23. They will play pop tunes to entertain the crowd. A special selection of music will be approved by NBC television for the performance in Herald Square, and the performance will be seen on television.

Selection to be in the parade is not an easy process. The paperwork is extensive.

"[The parade] is open to any high school or college marching band," Mr. Dickey said. "You cannot participate in the parade if you have been in the parade in the past 5 years. We had to wait to apply because we had performed in the 2011 parade. They select eight high school bands and two college bands each year from a pool of 300-500 applications."

Along with submitting an application the directors of the band have an extensive application process to participate in the parade.

"The process requires bands to submit approximately 50 pages of documentation about the band program," Mr. Dickey said. "This includes videos of the band performing in competitions, a resume of the band director's accomplishments, a resume of the band's accomplishments, the history of the band, references from well-known college directors and adjudicators that have seen the band perform, pictures of the band in uniform, pictures of the color guard in uniform, press clippings and other media coverage."

Going to New York and being in Macy's parade is expensive.

"It will cost over \$250,000 for the band to make the trip to the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade," Mr. Dick-



Nation Ford Band plays "All That Glitters," at band exhibition on Sept. 16 at Nation Ford High School. The band will be marching in the Macy's Day Thanksgiving Day Parade this year, and they are raising funds to cover travel costs to New York in November.

ey said.

The students participating in band and going to the parade have to raise money to go on this trip to New York.

"Students are responsible for a percentage [of the cost] and they have taken advantage of several fund-raising opportunities," Mr. Dickey said. "These include a mattress sale that raised over \$20,000 the past 2 years, an Oyster Roast, selling fruit, and working concessions at Carolina Panthers Football games. In addition, local restaurants like Chick-fil-a, Culver's, Hobo's, Moe's, Empire Pizza, and Show-

**"It will cost over
\$250,000 for the band
to make the trip to the
Macy's Thanksgiving
Day Parade."
-Mr. Dickey**

mars have sponsored restaurant nights with a percentage of sales going to our "March to Macy's" campaign. We also have been fortunate to have businesses and individuals sponsor the band through a number of philanthropic opportunities."

While the band is in New York, the students are also going sightseeing.

"The band will tour Rockefeller Center, "Top of the Rock," a Broadway musical, Ellis Island, Statue of Liberty, Battery Park, the 911 Memorial, and Times Square while in New York," he said.