

# best foot FORWARD

## MARCHING BAND NAMED FIRST ALTERNATE TO STATE

With lucky pennies in their shoes and music in their hearts, the band marches onto the field to perform their halftime show, *Rachmaninoff: Music is Enough for a Lifetime, but a Lifetime is Not Enough for Music*.

"The best moments of my life are when I get to perform in band," senior **Ally Morales** said.

From waking up early for practice to performing at halftime shows, the band was constantly working towards their ultimate goal—making it to the state UIL marching competition.

"I wish people knew how much time and work we put into the halftime shows," senior **Sarah Alverson** said.

In addition to the band members, the color guard as well as Fine Arts Academy dance majors performed on the field as a part of the show.

"I wouldn't do it if it wasn't worth it," Morales said. "I wouldn't give up so much of my time to do something I didn't love."

In past years, the band has had success at UIL competitions but has not recently made it far into the competition circuit. The last time the band made it the state competition was in 2005. Hoping to improve their chances, the band directors, Carol Nelson, Jeff Rudy and Matt Ehlers invited dance majors to perform with them, adding more

complex movements to complement the music.

"It's exciting to have so much more involvement with different parts of the Fine Arts Academy," senior **Hannah Wright** said.

Only a few dance majors were asked to take part in the collaboration, led by dance department directors Rachel Murray and Brazie Adamez.

"I like how the dancers and color guard is in it because you don't really pay attention to a lot of that stuff while you're marching, but when you watch the video of it, it just looks really cool to see all of your hard work paying off," freshman **Chance Green** said.

After advancing past the regional competition, the band made the finals at the UIL Area competition. Placing sixth, the band was named first alternate for the state competition. Although they narrowly missed achieving their ultimate goal, band members said they felt that their journey from summer practice to UIL Area was a good experience.

"The end result wasn't what we were dreaming of and we were all kind of sad about not making it," senior **Hugh Pauwels** said. "But we can hang our hat on the fact that we have given one of the greatest performances in the history of the McCallum band."

### IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Sophomores Caitlyn Burris and Keanna Haynes perform during the band's halftime show. Burris and Haynes were two of the few dance majors selected to be a part of the collaboration. "I had the best time performing during halftime shows as well as UIL competitions," Haynes said. "I am truly thankful and gracious that the band asked us to do this." Photo by Christina Beck.

