Whippany Park band brings music to Disney World

HANOVER TWP. - The Whippany Park High School Marching Band, "The Pride of Hanover Township," performed in Disney World's Magic Kingdom, in Orlando, Fla., Saturday evening, March 16.

The Pride was chosen to march down Main Street, USA, leading the Main Street Electrical Parade, to the cheers of tens of thousands of onlookers. The band and color guard performed Bruno Mars' hit single, "Locked Out of Heaven."

The marching band is led by directors Peter Sciaino and Carl Sabatino, and assistant director Donald Fries, while the color guard directors are Elisa Fries and Jennifer Cutri.

While in Orlando, the Pride also participated in Disney's "You're Instrumental" workshop, led by renowned band composer and arranger Allen Gray. The workshop took place in Disney's Hollywood Studios. The students recorded a portion of a Disney score, to accompany a scene from the classic animated Disney film, "The Lion King."

The Pride traveled to Orlando

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The Whippany Park High School Marching Band performed at Disney World on March 16. They are shown here passing Cinderella's Castle.

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with 165 of its 180 members, after fundraising for two years through multiple cheesecake, jewelry and candle sales made the trip possible.

The group chartered its own plane, which accommodated the students, staff and chaperones attending, as well as all of the band's instruments, uniforms and equipment. Just prior to the trip to Orlando, the band received brand new uniforms, replacing uniforms that were 16 years old. Parent volunteers worked to complete uniform fittings on all of the students in time for the trip. In addition to the efforts of parent volunteers, the Whippany Park Music Boosters assisted with obtaining the new uniforms, fundraising, and equipment mobilization.