

WHIPPANY PARK MARCHING BAND



Whippany Park High School's award-winning marching band, held "PrideFest," an end of summer performance for families, friends, and alumni, on Thursday, Aug. 28.

Band takes 'PrideFest' on the road

HANOVER TWP. - The Pride of Hanover Township, Whippany Park High School's award-winning marching band, held "PrideFest," an end of summer performance for families, friends, and alumni, on Thursday, Aug. 28.

A showcase for the work done at summer "band camp," PrideFest is a celebratory opener to the fall marching band season.

This year's drum majors are Whippany Park seniors Allie Mangino, Emily Rapp, and Ryan Kim. Mangino said, "Pridefest was a great way to kick off this season, honoring legendary artists such as 'The Boss,' from the Garden State for its 350th anniversary," Rapp said.

"After a great performance at

Pridefest, our season is only going to get better and we look forward to honoring New Jersey each time with our unique show," Rapp said.

Pridefest was first held five years ago. Band directors Carl Sabatino and Peter Sciaino decided to wind up summer band camp with a show and the opportunity for the band members' families to see what their kids had been learning.

This year, the band, 160 members strong, representing more than 20 percent of the school's entire student body, drew a crowd of more than 400 guests. Sciaino explained that PrideFest helps foster fellowship and support among the band members, instructors, alumni and parents, which is essential to the success of the band. The Whippany Park Music Boosters provided a barbecue meal for all those in attendance.

"The atmosphere at this event never ceases to amaze me," Sabatino said. "There is such a communal feel when our students are performing for not only their families, but

also the alumnus who helped build this program and continue to be a part of the Pride. I love the look on the new members' faces when they realize what they've just become a part of."

The 2014 Field Show, entitled, "The Garden State: The Sounds of New Jersey," is made up of selections about or related to New Jersey or by musicians who hail from the state. The band is led by Directors Sabatino and Sciaino, Assistant Directors Justin Toomey and Donald Fries, Color Guard Instructors Elisa Fries and Devon Gant and Field Staff Assistant Rebecca Hoffer.

This year, the band is performing at the NJMEA State Marching Band Festival at Wayne Hills High School and the North Jersey Band Festival at Montclair State University in October as well as in parades, at football games and at various community events. In the spring, the band will travel to Washington, D.C., to perform around the nation's capital.

Sciaino said, "The response

to this year's show theme has been incredible. New Jerseyans truly have pride in their state, and I think wherever we perform this year we will connect with an audience. It's the 350th anniversary of our great state, and it seemed right to honor and showcase the phenomenal music that we can all claim as our own."

Show selections include "The Black Parade" by My Chemical Romance; "Bad Medicine" by Bon Jovi; "Luck Be a Lady" as performed by Frank Sinatra; "Rapper's Delight" and "Jump On It" by Sugar Hill Gang; "Give Up the Funk" by Parliament (Plainfield); "Jersey Bounce" as performed by Glenn Miller; "Moten Swing" by Count Basie; "Jersey Girl" by Tom Waits; and "Born to Run" by Bruce Springsteen.

"With a great opener at Pridefest, we are looking forward to performing one of our greatest shows yet," said Drum Major Ryan Kim. "We can't wait to help celebrate New Jersey's milestone 350th anniversary."