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NORWIN SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS RELEASE

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NORWIN BAND WINS GOLD AT PIMBA CHAMPIONSHIPS

NORTH HUNTINGDON — On Saturday, October 28, the Norwin High School Marching Band finished the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Marching Band Association (PIMBA) Competition Season by being crowned National Class 1st Place/Gold Medal Champion at the 2011 PIMBA championships held at Norwin.

The Knights gave a tremendous performance to win the championship plaque. Not only did they score the highest overall, but they were awarded Best Visual Performance, and tied for Best General Effect.

The top five finishers in the show were Norwin, Kiski Area, Moon Area, Gateway, and Blackhawk.

The band is directed by Mr. Robert Traugh, who is assisted by Mr. Gregory Ondayko and Ms. Kimberly Glover.

In all, 19 bands participated in the 2011 PIMBA Championships, which were hosted at Norwin Knights Stadium. The stadium field was covered with over 3" of snow after a surprise morning snowstorm and the event was moved to the parking lot that serves as Norwin's practice field.

"Bravo to all for the patience and support displayed under far, far less than ideal circumstances, including amazing efforts by the Norwin Band Aides and Event Chair Vicky McClain, the applause for each band by the large audience, the flexibility of every band director and staff member, and, especially, the courage and perseverance demonstrated by EACH student that endured a long, cold day to perform, giving their very best in the final PIMBA show of the 2011 season," PIMBA wrote on its Web site.

Several band parents and band directors commended the District, its staff, and its band parents for persevering in trying circumstances, including the band director from Beaver Area, the band director from Penn-Trafford, a parents' organization president from Moon Area, and the band director from Serra Catholic.

"We completely understand that the field could not be safely cleared in time for the competition and we are very glad that the show could still go on!" wrote Ms. Bethany Loy, band director from Serra Catholic High School. "We feel very fortunate that Norwin had the facilities to accommodate the competition -- the full paved practice field, scaffolding for judges, bleachers for the audience -- despite the weather. We are so glad the event was not cancelled or postponed."

The next stop for the Norwin High School band is the Bands of America Grand National Championship in Indianapolis, Indiana, from November 10 through 12, 2011. This is recognized as the premier marching band event in the nation. Norwin was named Bands of America Grand National Champion in 1982.



Here is a photo of the Norwin Band Field Leaders after they were awarded First Place in National Class at the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Marching Bands Association 2011 Championships held this past weekend. Field Leaders in the Photo include: Colorguard Captain Payden Meyers; Drum Major Eric McDonald; Color Guard Captain Sami Passarello; Drum Major Johnny Murray; and Colorguard Captain Chelsea Smith. (Photo courtesy of Patty Jo Murray, Norwin Band Aides).

Band Aims for \$50,000 Grant for Uniforms

The Norwin High School Band Program is in the running for a \$50,000 grant to help overcome the financial challenge of purchasing uniforms. The Norwin Band Aides, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization supporting the Norwin High School Band Program, has entered the national \$50,000 grant competition through the Pepsi Refresh Project. During the month of November, Norwin supporters simply need to click and text their vote each day at

<http://www.refresheverything.com/refreshnorwinband>.