



# GOOSE CREEK

## CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



(from left) Goose Creek Memorial High School drum majors Jahron Adolphin, Amanda Essoh and Kayleigh Schweers along with band captain David Chapman display the trophy the GCM Band won at the recent U.S. Bands Contest in Conroe. The band placed first in their division and won caption awards for Best Music, Best Overall Effect, Best Visual and Best Color Guard.



REL Band members (l to r) Alejandra Sanchez, Mireya Fuentes, Eileen McCafferty, Abby Perez, Kaylee George, Destiny Godfrey, Jasmin Razo and Isabel Garcia show off the trophy the REL Band received at the recent U.S. Bands Contest in Conroe. The REL Band earned second in their division and a caption award for Best Percussion.

## GCCISD Bands Fare Well in U.S. Bands Contest

The marching bands from Goose Creek Memorial and Robert E. Lee high schools competed in the U.S. Bands Contest in Conroe September 26. GCM placed first in their division and won caption awards for Best Music, Best Overall Effect, Best Visual, and Best Color Guard. The GCM Band competes again this coming weekend at the Galena Park Marching Contest, performing at 2 p.m. Saturday, October 3. The GCM Band is under the direction of Richard Lewis, Andrew Kier and James Bourdier.

The REL Band earned second in their division, winning a caption award for Best Percussion. The REL Band is under the direction of Robert Poulin, Caleb Lopez, and Dr. Stefan Ice and will compete at the Galena Park Marching Contest Saturday, October 3, at 9:45 a.m.

To be competitive in the State UIL marching contest process, band programs are required to create thematic shows that highlight areas of skill in their student musicians. Judges not only rate the music choice and degree of difficulty that band directors choose, but they also critique the show as an entire artistic composition, including visual effects (both in field props and formations that the band can create as a unit), style of music as well as the thematic choices of music in contrast. They look for creative artistic expression, thematic visual and related music selections to match those concepts, all while critiquing the articulate marching and instrument fundamentals simultaneously, according to Phillip Morgan, director of fine arts for Goose Creek CISD.

"GCM's show for 2015 highlights the concept of 'Winter,' including some show music that is light and happy (like holiday songs) before sharply contrasting that music against selections that are very heavy and powerful (such as a blizzard)," said Morgan. "At the beginning of the show, the band forms a snowflake at the center of the field. The ability for the band to align to that visual expectation is critically scored by the judges in the Drill and Ensemble Marching sections of their rubric used for judging."

Robert E. Lee High School's concept show for this year is entitled "Kaleidoscope." The show articulates the definition of that very word, highlighting that things are not always what they seem. Visual elements in the show are based in the notion that what is perceived is not always exactly what the eye is seeing.

"The concept showcases many visuals of color and contrasting musical movements driven by original music from composer Key Poulan. Visual constructs throughout the show work to trick the eyes and reveal elements that are hidden in plain sight," said Morgan. "This unique production allows the Famous Robert E. Lee Band to distinguish itself among the creative shows in conference 5A with visual and musical elements that are original in design."

The concepts are derived from the visions of the band directors, who spend many hours studying professional Drum Corps and the conceptual marching shows that make the national stage year after year at the DCI World Championships in Indianapolis. "Without these themes, bands would simply march from circle to square and in line formations without purpose," said Morgan.

Morgan explains that the concept ties the show to a purpose, helping to artistically distinguish the students' abilities in drill and marching throughout the show. This research allows band directors to creatively assemble the visual and musical foundation of their shows to give students the best possible advantage as they prepare for public performance.

"As our students transition into college, it is critical that they learn these artistic marching and conceptual elements in order to be best prepared in all areas, from their instrument to the details of the marching show," said Morgan. "I remain very proud of the hours and sweat invested by our drum majors, instrumental students, color guard, band directors and parents who work to make our competition marching shows successful productions. Go, Band!"

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