

July 24, 2008



Anderson band students at the Lone Star Showcase.

Report Card

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A busy summer for the Trojan Band

While most AISD students were studying for finals and AP/IB tests, Anderson High School Band students were also preparing for finals of a different sort.

Wind Ensemble Festival

The AHS Wind Ensemble performed in the UIL Texas State Wind Ensemble Festival on May 3. An "invitation only" event, 14 bands selected from across the state of Texas performed for judges and audiences in Bates Recital Hall on the University of Texas campus. This is the first time Anderson has been invited to perform at this event. The Wind Ensemble, led by AHS Director of Bands Ryan Zysk, had an excellent performance and received very positive feedback and a mini-performance-clinic from judges. Although the festival was not a competition, several individuals throughout the day were recognized as "Outstanding Performers." Anderson had three performers who were awarded a state medal for their achievement: Leah Nunke on piccolo, Miki Sasaki on trumpet and Corey McMinn on timpani.



Miki Sasaki

Lone Star Showcase

On May 16, Anderson took two bands to competition at the Lone Star Showcase of Music Contest in Garland. Band 2 won Outstanding in Class 5A and Superior Musical Performance trophies in the Symphonic Band category. Band 1 won Outstanding in Class 5A and Superior Musical Performance awards in the Wind Ensemble category. Band 1 also came away with the trophy for Best Band Overall out of the entire contest field.

Other great news is that the Band Hall has recently received

a mini-facelift while they await renovations resulting from the recently passed school bond election. Thanks to Brandtley McMinn and Barton Nanney for completing their Eagle Scout projects (with lots of help from other Scouts and band members) to benefit the Anderson Band, doing some much-needed repair work to instrument lockers, the tuba room, and other instrument-storage facilities, as well as giving it a fresh coat of blue and gold paint.

What's going on this summer?

Judging by the numbers coming out, band seems to be a year-round activity for many Anderson Band students. This summer, a contingent of Trojan Band faithful led the Northwest Hills July Fourth Parade. A number of individuals are attending music camps throughout the state to enhance their musical skills and the student leadership will be attending Leadership Camp later in the summer. And, in preparation for the coming marching season, members are already hard at work learning music for next fall, so they can hit the ground 'marching' at the start of summer band camp on July 30.



Corey McMinn

On July 19, Corey McMinn directed a large number of band students, Scouts and parents in painting a brand-new marching practice field on the parking lot at Anderson to complete his Eagle Scout project. "We used about 25 gallons of paint—23 gallons of white, 2 of yellow, and 1 of red. And miles of string for marking and making sure things lined up. We spent some time surveying to make sure everything was accurate, and we spent about five hours painting and measuring," Corey said.

Director Ryan Zysk said, "This is great, I think we now have one of the best, if not the best, practice fields in town! It's going to make a huge difference in the quality of our practices and performances." Approximately 55 fellow band students and Scouts (and some parents, too) showed up each time to help all three Eagle Scout candidates with their projects.

In August, look for Anderson Band members to turn West Austin pink as they blanket the neighborhood with their Flamingo Fun(d)raiser just before school begins. If you'd like to be a part of the fun, contact Fun(d)raising Chairman Ken Rowley at ken@croleyinsurance.com or Director Ryan Zysk at RZysk@austinisd.org.