

Pope Band Notes

www.popeband.com

3001 Hembree Rd. Marietta GA 30062

HERE WE GO! FIRST COMPETITION OF 2015

Our competitive marching band season started on October 3rd at the Bands of America Regional Championship in Powder Springs, GA. First, a bit of background...

Bands of America is under the umbrella of Music for All, a national organization dedicated to music education and performance. The marching band division annually hosts 19 regional championships as well as the “Grand Nationals” championship. These are considered the elite marching band competitions in the country.

Pope started its participation in these events in 1992, winning its first ever regional competition. For the next 19 years, Pope attended BOA regionals and finished in the top 3 on 15 occasions. Pope also attended the Grand National Championships twice, being named a national semi-finalist both times with placements of 16th and 13th out of 90 participating bands.

For a variety of reasons, Pope took some time away from BOA competition starting in 2011. This year, we decided to return to this prestigious arena. As we prepared, the band staff had to not only design a show that met the expectations of a national evaluation, but had to make certain that the students were ready both physically and mentally to be evaluated using one of the most advanced scoring systems in the activity. Not only is the group evaluated as a whole, but individual students are evaluated during BOA performances. We knew that some of the participating bands would practice literally hundreds of hours more than we do, and that they would spend significantly more money on staff, equipment, and props in order to create amazing shows. Our belief remained that we could develop a quality performance by the first weekend of October and that the students could do a show that they would look back on with pride.

The competition is a two-tiered event, with all participating bands performing in the preliminary round then the top ten

being selected to return and perform in the finals championships. Pope had never missed being in a BOA finals in any regional contest since 1992.

On competition day, the weather decided to play a significant role. Drizzle and rain stayed with us all day. Conditions were less than ideal, still, the students performed as if it were sunny and 75 degrees.

As class placement awards were announced, the tension grew. Pope did not receive any of the “highest achievement” awards in our classification... then came the announcement of the ten finalist bands, and the announcer finally said “from Marietta, GA...the Alan C. Pope Marching Band!!!” A huge sigh of relief was followed by celebration in the stands. We had done it! Another finalist placement after 5 years away from the activity. Afterwards, we explained to the students how impressive this was...since it was also the first time we had performed the entire show in uniform this year (our schedule gave us several away games and an off week just before the contest). Sadly, the finals performance was cancelled due to the inclement weather, but the students remained ecstatic about their preliminary performance and placement.

As a band director, I could not have been more thrilled for the students. They achieved a significant goal, and more importantly, they learned the value of working hard and never giving up. As we reviewed the judge’s comments, we discovered that we were in 10th place...the last band to make the finals cut... but a finalist in any regard. Six other bands would have loved to be in our position. We learned the things that we needed to do in order to keep improving the show, we were able to let the students hear evaluation comments by some of the top people in the marching activity, and we can now move forward in our efforts to create the best performance possible! Good....Better....BEST!



COMMUNITY SHOW AND FOOD TRUCKS.... Come Join Us!

Save the date! Next week, **Tuesday, October 20th** is our **Community Show** where the band will perform both their competition show **Digital Footprints**, as well as their rockin' **Bon Jovi** halftime songs. Close up your kitchens and join us for dinner beforehand with **Food Trucks** in the upper parking lot, beginning at 5 pm. The [Toasted Cheese Truck](#), [Cousins Maine Lobster](#), [Viet-Nomie's](#) and [Little Blue Ice Cream Truck](#) will be the featured food for the evening. The show will start at 7 pm in Pope's football stadium. It is a wonderful evening to celebrate the band and all they have accomplished this season and to enjoy some time with our band family. Please invite your friends, family and neighbors and spread the word to our eager middle school musicians and families as well. General admission is \$5.

A Rare Opportunity...

Dear Band Parents. It is a rare extra curricular activity that captures our students attention and passion like band. They make great friends, and they dedicate themselves to something that takes a team to accomplish, and is something greater than themselves. They learn time management and utilize many other life skills as well. One might think that I am actually talking about participating in the Pope Band Parent Association Board of Directors. These same things are true of that organization. We are a group of very friendly parents who want to see their kids experience in the band be the best that it can be. I personally have made some great friends and all of us are dedicated to something beyond ourselves. Please consider joining us next year and take a role in guiding this organization and making our fundraising efforts and support of the band be as successful as it can be. We can only do it with your help. Please give me a call at [678-908-8968](tel:678-908-8968) or email me at jsherwin.pbpa@gmail.com if you are interested, and let's talk about what's involved. It's actually a lot of fun. Thank you - John

“APPLES FOR ALL” FUNDRAISER

The “Apples for All” Fundraiser is here. Forms are available now for All band students to bring home.

Please let your family, friends and neighborhoods know about the fresh crop of N. Georgia Apples and fresh fried pies we have available.

Forms and money are due Wednesday November 4th, please put them in the white box marked “Apple Sales” or give to Leanne Frandsen.

Pick up will be Saturday November 14th at the Tritt Elementary School covered play area, 12–2 PM for Students orders and 2–4 PM for Community orders.

If you would like to get involved passing out flyers or filling orders on November 14th please let me know there is plenty to do and many hands make light work.

Please contact Leanne Frandsen at leannelf@hotmail.com.

Thank you for your support in helping our children and the Pope High School Band.

SAVE THE DATE

