

THE SOUNDTRACK TO AHS

Everyone relates to music. On campus, groups like Orchestra, Choir and Band allow students to express their musical talent while entertaining the student body. With more than 100 members, Band stands as one of the prominent symbols of AHS.

By StaffWriter Jennifer Pierce

COLORGUARD

Colorguard is a dance team on campus that performs with marching band. As the name suggests, they add color and movement to the band's music in field shows through their unique incorporation of props and equipment in their dance routines. Together, they compete and perform at football games, marching band competitions and pep rallies during the fall in the Western Band Association (WBA) circuit.

According to Colorguard co-captain Catherine Nguyen, "Colorguard is definitely [a] sport of the arts. We [perform] many varieties of dance, specifically ballet and modern, along with spinning flags, sabers and rifles."

After the fall marching season is over, Colorguard competes as Winterguard in the Winter Guard Association of Southern California (WGASC) circuit.

"Colorguard is like [the] training season for the [beginners]."

and Winterguard is where the skills take action," said Nguyen.

In order to make all of these competitions and performances possible, hard work and dedication is required from each guard member. A typical day at practice can range from three to ten hours, which includes stretching, warming up with the equipment, learning routines and drilling for shows.

"Practices are tough and time consuming, but [they are] the most fun anyone can have. Our instructors can be [strict], but that is what we need for an almost perfect show," said sophomore member Keila Crook.

Despite the often tedious practices, all of the hours invested pay off when the crowd goes wild during shows and competitions.

"It is really intense, but competitions are amazing. Seeing people [we] have never met clap, yell and enjoy what [we] have worked hard on is very fulfilling," said Nguyen.

By StaffWriter Ellen Li



Color guard Co-Captain Catherine Nguyen



MEET THE BAND

"[The band], in one aspect, is a performance ensemble" said Band Director, Mark Trulson. From football games to parades and community performances in and out of Alhambra, Band supports athletics and does various service-oriented performances. According to Trulson, performing in the 2009 Rose Parade was their biggest accomplishment yet. Over the years, Band also performed for the mayor of Los Angeles, members of Congress and Supreme Court justices.

"All music groups on campus are all inclusive," said Trulson. Although there are auditions for positions that go beyond the curriculum, the band accepts any student who is willing to work. According to Trulson, Band seems to do a good job of including anyone because even those students who get the class by mistake stay enrolled in it.

Students enter Band either from elementary school, beginning band, other instrumental classes or purely by accident. Members of Band also recruit students on campus as well.

Aside from Trulson, Band has a body of student leaders, which includes an instructional staff, concert master, drum major and section leader; the remaining students support their leaders by meeting the standards of the band through hard work and play.

While participating in Band, students also learn skills such as responsibility and leadership. "Students here receive structured education for four years," said Trulson. According to him, colleges are searching for hard-working students, who are often a part of AHS' band.

"[They are] highly marketable individuals," said Trulson.

By StaffWriter Jennifer Pierce

DRUM MAJORS

Did you know that a Drum Major does not actually play drums? In fact, they do not play an instrument at all—they conduct and lead the marching band. Despite the challenges of leading Band, it can be an enjoyable experience that can result in both great entertainment and long lasting friendships.

"People bond with each other through their sections [who are] their friends [that are] from the same elementary school. They would become friends through other friends; in a way, it is like the domino [effect]," said Sergio Gardena senior Drum Major.

At first, strangers wouldn't really know each other. However, through a common interest, they would be able to get to know one another. Band is no different. During their breaks, which are usually less than ten minutes, and their free time, they would socialize with their peers.

"Being in the environment Band provides is really enjoyable. We get really close [during] the hours to-

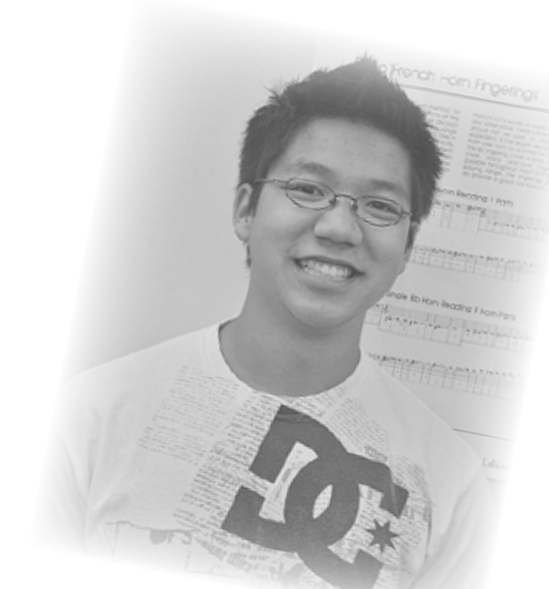
gether during practice," said Cedric Vutheikun sophomore Drum Major.

During the first semester, which is Marching Season for Band, they put forth their efforts to ready themselves for their field show performance in the football games and for their competitions. Marching Season practice is four hours a day, twice a week, with the additional one hour practice during school. Concert Season, which is during second semester, holds practice for two hours, twice a week. During Concert Season, Band works on pieces for their performance in the Spring Concert. In the summer, practice is the same as during Marching Season. The only exception is that in the summer, Band learns the pieces they will be playing in the school year. There is also Band Camp, which is about two weeks. During Band Camp, members have a more vigorous, physical training compared to their season practice.

By StaffWriter Grace Chow



Senior Drum Major, Sergio Gardena



Sophomore Drum Major, Cedric Vutheikun

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