

# West Johnston Band Parents Association

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –BAND CAMP ENDS AS 2006 SEASON BEGINS FOR ONE OF THE LARGEST HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BANDS IN THE STATE– BENSON, N.C., August 15, 2006:**

In just five years, the West Johnston High School Marching Band has become one of the largest high school marching bands in North Carolina. The national reputation of this band and Johnston County's growth brought a record number of students into its ranks this year.

During the hottest week of the entire summer, band camp began with the students learning this year's new field show designed by West's Assistant Director David S. Duffy. The 2006 show is entitled "DECLARATION", and will showcase the music of Copeland, Gershwin, and Bernstein. West will depict through the music of these American composers the basic principles upon which our country is based--Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.

During band camp, the students at West Johnston were also privileged to work with Patrick Sheridan, a world-renowned Tuba soloist. He assisted West's Band Directors Lance Britt and David S. Duffy in teaching the students breathing exercises to strengthen their musical skills. "I love coming here to West. They are such a great group of kids to work with." stated Sheridan. "These two directors have created a positive learning environment here at West". Inspirational speaker Scott Lang also worked with the students empowering them to want to succeed not only in the band program, but in life as well. His entertaining leadership development lectures motivated the students to meet the future challenges that the 2006 season will bring. Mr. Lang's positive outlook inspired the band students as he challenged them repeatedly with principles like "The more you give the more you get." and "don't quit until it's perfect!"

The 2006 season will see the West Marching Band continuing to represent Johnston County and North Carolina in local, regional and national competitions. This award-winning band will be seen at the Clayton High School Band Classic, Cary Band Day, and will defend their title as Grand Champions at the Capital City Expo at Sanderson High School in Raleigh. On the regional and national levels, West plans to travel to the Bands of America regional competition in Towson, Maryland and the Bands of America Grand Nationals in Indianapolis, Indiana. Last year at the Bands of America Grand Nationals, West Johnston was the only marching band from North Carolina to make the semi-finals and placed 21<sup>st</sup> out of 100 of the top high school marching bands in the country. As West's band students perform in these competitions, they get to experience places they may not normally have the opportunity to visit, but more importantly, they are acquiring and enhancing important life skills such as teamwork, confidence, commitment and setting goals.

The first opportunity to view the students perform their 2006 show "DECLARATION" was at the Parent's Preview Night on August 11<sup>th</sup>. The evening began with a dessert social for parents and family members at 6:00 pm in the cafeteria. West Johnston Band Directors, Mr. Britt and Mr. Duffy then introduced the 2006 Field Show "DECLARATION" and the performance followed at 7:00pm.

The West Johnston Band Parent's Association is also gearing up for the 2006 season, not by marking time in the parking lot, but by fitting uniforms, sewing flags, building props and feeding the hungry band students dinner during the second week of band camp. Fundraisers are also being planned, with Coin the Magic beginning this month to help raise money for additional uniforms and instruments created by the band's growth this year. Cindy Nyberg, West Johnston BPA's treasurer noted, "I'm confident that the parents and our community will work together to meet the uniform and instrument needs of our students. We always have." Coin the Magic is a

great fundraiser because most people have some spare change that is available to make a contribution to support these students and the band program.

The Band Parent's Association welcomes everyone to attend their next event, the Fall Marching Band Invitational that will be held at the West Johnston football stadium on October 7<sup>th</sup>. This marching band competition will include marching bands from across the state.

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