

# **West Johnston Band Parents Association**

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PO Box 53  
Smithfield, NC 27577

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –WEST JOHNSTON BECOMES FIRST BAND IN JOHNSTON COUNTY TO WIN A BOA CLASS AAA REGIONAL PRELIMINARY COMPETITION – BENSON, N.C., October 26, 2006:**

West Johnston is the first school in the history of Johnston County to achieve first place in a Class AAA in a Bands of America Regional preliminary competition. The West Johnston Marching Band was also awarded Best General Effect and advanced to the finals, in which they placed fourth out of the ten finalists.

The Bands of America Regional competition was held this past weekend at Johnny Unitas Stadium in Towson Maryland. Twenty-six bands from Connecticut, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Florida, North Carolina, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York competed.

Seth Reese, a junior in the marching band described the feeling on the field during the competition, "Magic happened on the field that day. We were in first place not only because of our win, but because of how the crowd made us feel!" An interested supporter stated in an email to the directors after the competition, "I was absolutely impressed with the sportsmanship that you are teaching your students. Watching your staff and students applauding the band exiting the field before you said volumes about the professionalism of your band program."

The day after the BOA competition, the band stopped in Washington, D.C. at the National Archives to view the Declaration of Independence upon which their show is based. The 2006 show entitled "DECLARATION," showcases the music of Copland, Gershwin, and Bernstein. West depicts, through the music of these American composers, the basic principles upon which our country is based--Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. Robin Adams, a sophomore said, "We had to fight for our freedom and what we believe in and seeing the actual Declaration made me realize that we sometimes take things for granted here in America."

The next opportunity to view the students perform their 2006 show "DECLARATION" will be at Sanderson High school this weekend on Saturday October 28, as the band defends their title as Capital City Expo Grand Champion. The following weekend on November 4, the band will march in the Cary Band Days Parade, which steps off at 10:00 am, then will compete at Cary Band Days Marching Band competition.

The Band Parent's Association welcomes everyone to attend the Indy Preview Show, to be held at the West Johnston football stadium on Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. At this event, which is free to everyone, the band will perform the entire show before they head to the BOA Grand Nationals Competition in Indianapolis, Indiana. Last year at the BOA 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 are acquiring, enhancing, and practicing important life skills such as teamwork, confidence, commitment and setting goals.

For more information please contact:

Mr. Roger Crickenberger, President - West Johnston Band Parents Association  
(919) 934-9891  
cricks4@mac.com

Linda Adams – Communications Chair  
(919) 553-2569  
Lsadams59@earthlink.net