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## Jackson Liberty Marching Band Begins Exciting Season



(click the picture above)

JACKSON - The Jackson Liberty Marching Band recently wrapped up its two-week band camp with high expectations for the upcoming season. This year's show is themed "Fantasia," with the musical selections from Beethoven's Symphony No. 5- Movement 1, The Sorcerer's Apprentice and The Firebird Suite.

The marching band currently stands at 89 members, which includes the color guard along with their musician counterparts. Margaret Harris, color guard advisor, stated, "The band and color guard completed a successful band camp because we worked hard, efforts were made to keep morale very high and we enjoyed ourselves. The show is a lot of fun, as is the music. The guard is looking forward to an enjoyable and productive season."

The color guard is vitally important to the show in that it adds numerous visual effects to the music and marching being performed on the field. This year's leadership positions include: Rifle Lead: Courtenay Bailey; Saber Lead: Samantha Ikola; Section Leaders: Christine Connery, Harlea Randolph and Stacey Reed.

The marching unit itself is being led by Drum Majors James Banister and Jess Gouker. Leadership positions within the musician ranks include Marching Captains Jaclyn Martin, Westley Russell and James Lee. This season's drum captain is Vincenza Della Donna. Section leaders include Alexia Polachek, Emily Kahlert, Rebecca Rocha, Gary Basko, Jacklyn Martin, David Reiter, Jacki Tate, Westley Russell, Christian DellaDonna, Rich Thomas, Kendall Hageman, Josh Gonzalez, John Wall and Jim Weeden.

At the end of band camp, Assistant Band Director Michael Carattini stated, "I'm so proud of how hard the students are working so far this year. We have a great show and I know they'll give each performance 100 percent." Mr. Scott Katona, director of the Liberty Marching Band, summed it up with, "I was very proud of the hard work and effort students, parents and staff displayed during band camp, which happened to be the hottest two weeks of the summer. I'm looking forward to another award winning season and wish everyone the best of luck throughout."

The competitive marching season will begin on September 12 this year, when the band travels to Manchester HS. The marching band will also accompany the Liberty Lion football team on its quest for a successful season. The Jackson Day Parade will feature the Liberty Lions Marching Band as well. The group will participate in a number of local high school competitions this fall, culminating in the USSBA's Yamaha Cup, a largely popular competition held at Giant's Stadium in the Meadowlands. This year's event holds special meaning for the students, as it will be the last marching event of its kind ever held in this facility.

The Liberty Band Parents and Students Association are very proud to announce that they have been asked by the USSBA to host its annual MidSeason Showcase marching competition on October 11 at the high school. There are currently 16 high school bands from all over the state scheduled to appear at the event. More details will follow marching band and color guard groups. The Liberty Band Parents wish to thank the board of education, Mr. Thomas Gialanella, the Liberty Marching Band staff and all of the citizens of Jackson Township for their support of the students.

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