MARCH MUSICIANS OF THE

PITCH NOT SO PERFECT CONTEST SING ALONG TRADITIONCONTINUES

SHOWTIME

Two marching shows gave band members a little variety in their routines. "At the beginning of the year, we were playing 'Radioactive' for the crowd to enjoy, but after a couple of weeks we got sick of it," senior Elliot Elint said. "Our other show was a little more challenging." "Day of Wrath" was based on an epic poem about the rapture and God's vengeance on earth. "It was a good balance for us," Elliot said. "This show was more challenging for us and something the judges would enjoy more.

As the buses pull out of the parking lot, Aeach band member sits silently, anxiously awaiting their first marching contest at Grimm Stadium. An upperclassmen stands and gives the signal. Suddenly there is music, but no instruments. No words. There's just one problem

"It sounds awful. That's why we're in band. We can't sing," sophomore Austin Black said. It's a tradition that the entire band sings their parts to the music on the way to the Four States Marching Contest, traditionally the first contes tof the year. The band buses are divided into brass, woodwind, percussion and guard sections. Once the leader from each bus starts it off, every voice piles onto the next, and it

sounds just like the piece. However, it doesn't always sound exactly like the piece because those with solos can be hesitant to take the spotlight.

"Some parts are just awkward because no

one wants to sing alone," junior Cayli Campbell said

"When I'm on the field, I feel confident, like all my hard work is paying off." Anna Yowell (9)[JBunch]

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Despite the sound quality, the purpose of this sing-along is to help with music memorization and calm those first-contest nerves. By the time the last note is sung, the bus arrives at Grimm, and the band pours out of the bus and waits for their turn to take the field.

"I don't think the nervousness hits us until we walk in," sophomore Jayden Cellers said. Once it was over, they left with the Outstand-

ing Colorguard award, and with the band receiving all Ones, the highest score possible. This traditional bus ride is completely run by

"Even though it sounds goofy, we take it very seriously. "- senior Matthew Ward

the students. Instead of sleeping or talking, they chose to take that time to work.

"I just put my headphones on," band director Ed Grissom said. "That's something we have nothing to do with and know nothing about. That way we don't have to listen." Page by Kylie Rogers



1. SPORTING HIS LETTERMAN, senior Elliot Flint performs at Hawk Stadium at his last football game. "It was surreal to think that I've done this almost forty times and this would be my last time," he said. [JBunch] 2. POISED TO PLAY, sophomore Austin Black and junior Tevari Barker practice with the percussion section during their class period. "During the period we usually work on concert pieces," Austin said. [THurst] 3. FLAG IN HAND, junior Ashley Iglesia works with the colorguard after school. "The summer heat definetly made practices harder," Ashly said. "But the challenge also motivated us to push through." [KMcCorkle] 4. ARMS WAVING, sophomore Jayden Cellers joins in the "roller coaster" cheer in the stands. "Doing the roller coaster is fun because it's something everyone does together," he said. [MPayne] 5. IN THE PARK-ING LOT, freshman Claire Brazile watches the drum major at afterschool practice. ."It's a lot more work than middle school band," she said. "But I enjoyed learning something new." [KMcCorkle]



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