

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

Wando's marching band wins Bands of America regional competition



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Jacksonville, AL – Members of the Wando Marching Band lived up to and surpassed their own expectations and high standards by delivering an award-winning performance at the 2021 Bands of America Regional Championships at the Jacksonville State University on Saturday, October 16. The Warriors earned first place overall, and won the overall awards for Outstanding Music Performance and Outstanding Visual Performance during the finals portion of the day-long event with their show “Cabinet of Curiosities.” This is the Wando Band’s third regional title in program history.

Earlier in the day, Wando competed in the preliminaries with 22 other bands from around the Southeast region of the country. The Warriors swept the caption awards in Class 4A: Outstanding Visual, Outstanding Music, and Outstanding General Effect. The Wando Marching Band advanced to finals where, in front of a primetime audience with thousands of spectators, they delivered a stellar performance with a score of 84.6. This was Wando’s first appearance at Bands of America Jacksonville.

“I could not be prouder of what the Wando band has become after the major challenges this past year,” explained Brooke Smith, Wando High School’s senior drum major.

The Wando Band faced several obstacles on the way to their first competition in two years. From COVID stealing an entire season last year to a broken-down bus turning their seven-hour trip into an 11-hour day, the Wando band showed perseverance.

Bobby Lambert, Director of Bands at Wando, told the students they handled it beautifully.

“This band, including the last two years of seniors, make me incredibly proud,” explained Lambert. “These kids have been through so much over the past two years and only half of our band has ever been to a competition. While we still have challenges to face, our Wando Band family remains one of the best places for students to learn excellence, hard work, and the power of a team empowering them for the rest of their lives.”

The Warriors will now “march” their way to the South Carolina State Championships on November 6 in Irmo, SC. Their ultimate goal, however, is the Bands of America Grand National Championships in Indianapolis on November 10-12.

You can catch the Warriors’ show at their community performance at the District 2 Stadium on October 23 at 7:00 p.m. The band asks for attendees to bring a donation of canned goods for East Cooper Community Outreach.

The Bands of Wando are under the direction of Lambert, Lanie Radacke, and Jeff Handel; Michael Gray is the Program Coordinator for the Wando Marching Band; and Brian Winn is the Director of Color guard. The Bands of Wando thank the community, the Charleston County School District, the Town of Mount Pleasant, its Harmony Sponsors, the Bands of Wando Foundation, parents, and alumni for their continued support. For more information visit WandoBands.org.

For more information on how you can support the Wando Band, please visit www.wandoraffle.com.

For more about the Warriors’ performance, contact E.C. Setser at (843) 345-1374 or ecsetser@yahoo.com.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally accredited school district committed to providing equitable and quality educational opportunities for all of its students. CCSD is the second-largest school system in South Carolina and represents a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves approximately 49,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools. Options include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military.