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BLUE KNIGHTS EARN FOURTH PLACE AT USSBA ALL-STATES CHAMPIONSHIPS

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EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ --- The Southington Blue Knights Marching Band earned a fourth place trophy in their division at this season's USSBA (United States Scholastic Band Association) All-States Championship, which was held at Giants Stadium, East Rutherford, NJ, Saturday, November 13.

The USSBA All-States competition is the largest marching band competition in the United States with 188 bands competing in six different divisions over two days in East Rutherford, NJ and in Allentown, PA. During Saturday's event, the Blue Knights were the highest scoring Connecticut band in Class IV, and were ranked 9th out of the 48 bands competing.

This year's field show entitled "Hieroglyphics" is a unique repertoire composed by Key Poulan and consists of three movements "Valley of the Kings", "The Golden Horus" and "The Royal Cartouches." The band includes 64 musicians, 27 Color Guard, and one Drum Major, and is directed by Jeff Shaw and Sara Sabatino. The show's visuals are directed by Color Guard instructors Laura Shaw and Jennifer Snow, along with drill instructors Ken Bell, Kevin Cormack and Jeff Weir. Steve St. Mary and Colin Mason are the group's percussion instructors.

After the performance, both Jeff Shaw and Sara Sabatino were ecstatic. "I am thrilled for our kids and what they accomplished. We defended our status as top band in the state, and finished 4th out of 15 (only two tenths out of second place.) I think if anyone had told us this in

August, we all would have been thrilled. What a tremendous effort by the kids, staff and parents,” said Mr. Shaw.

“This has been an amazing season! We set a goal to be one of the Top 5 bands in the state. We pushed our kids and they delivered. This is my first year as Assistant Director, and as a SHS Band Alumnae, I know what it takes to achieve this goal. I’m very proud of what our students have achieved,” said Ms. Sabatino.

This competition caps an extremely successful season for the band. The group consistently improved their score during each competition, and by mid-season they were already the highest scoring band in the state. In six of the seven events they competed in they earned first place trophies and caption awards including Best in Show, Best Music, Best Marching, Best Percussion, and Best Overall Effect.

The band will conclude their fall season by performing the half-time show at Southington High School’s remaining home football games (Thanksgiving Day and play-offs.)

For more information, visit the Blue Knights Marching Band Website at www.shsbands.com, or contact the Southington High School music department at (860) 628-3229 ext. 250.

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