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## **BLUE KNIGHTS ARE “CONNECTICUT STATE CHAMPIONS” AT USSBA NEW ENGLAND STATES CHAMPIONSHIP**

### **For Immediate Release**

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**GROTON, CT** --- The Southington High School Blue Knights Marching Band earned a first place trophy and the title “USSBA Connecticut State Champions, Group IV Open” at the USSBA (United States Scholastic Band Association) New England States Championship, which was held October 30, at Fitch High School in Groton, CT.

The band also earned “Best Music” and “Best Marching” awards, and received their highest score so far this season (which was the 4th highest score out of the 27 competing bands.)

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

Jeff Shaw is very excited not only for his students, but for the marching band program in general. “The hard work our students are putting in is paying off, big time. This past week was grueling with two full practices, performances at both Rentschler Field and our home football game, and then Championships, all in the space of four days. However, this is the kind of dedication that is needed for a marching band to become ‘State Champions.’ They’ve stepped

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up to the plate, performed marvelously, and are now well-positioned for the All-States Championships,” said Mr. Shaw.

The Blue Knights’ season is not over yet. After a competition in Stratford on November 6, they will compete in the USSBA All-States Championships at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ, November 13. They will also perform during the half-time shows at Southington High School’s home football games (Thanksgiving Day and play-offs.)

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

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