

98 Dawn Lane
Southington, CT 06489

SHS BLUE KNIGHTS MARCHING BAND SEASON STARTS WITH 2ND & 3RD PLACE FINISHES

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Jerry Belanger, Publicity Chairperson
Southington Band Backers
Day: (860) 545-3905
Eve: (860) 621-1099

East Lyme and Waterford --- The Southington Blue Knights Marching Band earned 2ND and 3RD place trophies in their division at their first two USSBA (United States Scholastic Band Association) competitions of the season, held at East Lyme and Waterford High Schools, September 17 and 24.

This year's performance, entitled "Da Vinci's Dream... The History of Flight", is a difficult repertoire composed by Key Poulan consisting of three movements "The Ornithopter", "Kitty Hawk" and "Breaking the Sound Barrier." The Band is directed by Jeff Shaw and Sara Sabatino; the show's visuals are directed by Color Guard instructors Mike Pence and Jennifer Snow, along with drill instructors Kevin Cormack and Jeff Weir; Steve St. Mary and Colin Mason are the group's percussion instructors.

This year's band is experiencing some "growing pains", according Mr. Shaw. "This is a young band, nearly two thirds of whom are underclassmen, so there is only a small number of seniors to help guide the younger members. Adding to the group's challenges are that, at 105 members, the band is larger than last year's, which bumped them up to a class with larger, more experienced bands," said Jeff.

However, Mr. Shaw is confident his students are up to the challenge, and his staff has set a high standard for them. "The kids are working hard and they are starting to get it together," said both Jeff and Assistant Director Sara Sabatino.

The Blue Knights' upcoming schedule includes competitions in Rocky Hill (Oct. 1), Lyman Hall (Oct. 8), Cheshire (Oct. 15), "Music of the Knight" at Southington High School (Oct. 22), USSBA New England Championships in New London (Oct. 29), and USSBA All States Championships at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ (Nov. 5). In addition, they will perform the half-time show during Southington High School's home football games, as well as march in Southington's Apple Harvest Parade (Oct. 2).

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.
