



FAN Fare

Pageant of Bands & Zia Marching Fiesta: The Results are In!

Over 1,800 band students converged on Wilson Stadium on October 4th for the annual *Pageant of Bands* marching competition.

Albuquerque high schools placed as follows: In Class 3A, Del Norte took third place; in Class 4A, first and second place went to Cibola and Sandia respectively; in Class 5A, Highland took second place and Eldorado was awarded the third place trophy. In Class 5A, the “People’s Choice” Award went to Highland.

Zia Marching Fiesta, sponsored by the UNM Music Dept., was held Saturday, October 11th. Participants included almost thirty bands from throughout

the state, as well as several bands from Texas and Colorado. Several APS high schools placed in the top ten, earning them a place in the evening finalists’ competition. Eldorado placed sixth, Manzano placed eighth, Cibola placed ninth, and La Cueva placed tenth. And when the sound of the last drum faded away, Highland HS, with a show titled *Bach For The New Millennium*, won awards for Outstanding Musical Achievement, Outstanding Visual Achievement, Outstanding General Effect, and was named *Zia Fiesta* Grand Champion.

HHS band director, Paul Blakey, a thirteen year veteran of APS, was delighted with this win and praised his students for their hard work and dedication. Congratulations to Highland and to *all* of the bands who participated in these two marching band competitions!



HHS drum major Mauriel Rodriguez, left, and band director Paul Blakey proudly display Zia’s Grand Champion trophy.



“MAKING THE GRADE” IN THE ARTS

What most adults grew up with and knew simply as “the report card” has been replaced in all APS elementary schools with a document called the Standards-Based Progress Report (SBPR). The SBPR addresses student progress toward meeting grade-level standards for all content areas, including music and art, and serves as a “communication tool to parents and students about the learning process . . . for each reporting period.” Each reporting period captures student achievement based on a point in time. In addition to making progress toward meeting the content standards, students are given an “effort” grade for each content standard as well. Although there are a total of five content standards for elementary music and a total of six content standards for elementary visual arts, the SBPR addresses only two of the music standards and two of the art standards.

The standards selected for the SBPR in music and art represent those that are the most objective and most easily quantifiable for purposes of assessment. They also represent fundamental skills and concepts in music and art at the elementary level. Standards in both content areas that address the demonstration of more subjective concepts and skills, i.e., those regarding a student’s ability to use art or music skills and concepts to express his/her creativity and imagination, were deliberately *not* included on the SBPR. Clarifying that distinction between what *is* assessed and what *is not* assessed in elementary art and music is extremely important. When it comes to assessment, music and art classes have often been viewed by classroom teachers

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