



Lakota West Upbeat Club

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Lakota West High School "Marching Firebirds" Invited to Participate in Tournament of Roses Parade on January 1, 2008



FIRST BAND EVER SELECTED FROM SOUTHWEST OHIO!

Band members, family and friends to gather for an announcement celebration at Champ's in West Chester during this year's Rose Parade (11:00 AM – 1:00 PM, 1/1/07)

Members of the Lakota West Marching Firebirds will formally announce their selection to the January 1, 2008 Rose Parade at a celebration on New Year's Day, 2007. Band members, family, and friends will gather at Champ's in West Chester to watch this year's parade, welcome the official Rose Parade flag with a drumline escort at noon, and start the 365-day countdown to their performance in 2008.

Greg Snyder, Lakota West Band Director, and Tony Marinello, Assistant Band Director, will call in to the celebration from Pasadena, where they are scouting this year's parade. (They will also be available for telephone interviews by the news media.)

The Lakota West Marching Firebirds, one of 21 bands chosen to participate in the 119th Rose Parade, was selected from hundreds of high school bands throughout the United States and abroad. As it marches the 5 miles down Pasadena's famed Colorado Boulevard, the band will be the first ever to represent Cincinnati and Southwest Ohio.

"It's the dream of every band in America to represent its community in the Rose Parade," said Snyder. "We have an amazing group of students and have had tremendous support from our parents, school administrators, and community in earning this invitation."

According to Tony Yocco, President of the Lakota West Upbeat Club (the parent band booster organization), community support will continue to be critical as the band launches its fundraising efforts during January. "With a band numbering more than 300 students, chaperones, band staff, equipment transportation, and instrument and uniform repairs, the cost of the trip will approach \$1 million," said Yocco. The trip will be entirely financed by donations from students, parents, the Upbeat Club, corporate sponsors, and the community.

"We know it's a big challenge," stated Rick Shively, Fundraising Co-chairman for the Upbeat Club. "But participation in the Rose Parade goes beyond the particular students involved. It's a point of pride for our entire area – and we have no doubt that the people of Cincinnati and Southwest Ohio will make this dream a reality."

Robert Armstrong, a junior at Lakota West, will be one of the field commanders leading the band down Colorado Boulevard. "The whole band is ecstatic to be representing Southwest Ohio," said Armstrong. "Performing in the Rose Parade is the chance of a lifetime – it's something we'll all remember forever!"

The Tournament of Roses Parade is seen by approximately one million in-person spectators, a domestic television audience of 80 million viewers and an additional estimated 350 million viewers in over 100 countries each New Year's Day.



Rose Parade Announcement Caps Record 2006 for the Lakota West Bands!

For the bands of Lakota West High School in West Chester, the Rose Parade announcement caps an amazing year in 2006.

Last spring, the school achieved a state record with all four bands receiving the top rating at the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) state concert band contest. The bands earning a Superior rating were Symphonic Winds in Class AA, Red Symphonic Band in Class A, White Symphonic Band in Class A, and Concert Band in Class C.

Also last spring, the school's top concert band, Symphonic Winds, received an invitation to perform at the Midwest Clinic in Chicago on December 22. The Midwest Clinic, an international band and orchestra conference held annually since 1946, is the premier event for music educators and performers each year. Over 14,000 directors, composers, music publishers and dealers from all 50 states and over 30 countries come to see the newest and best in musical talent. Because of the tough performance standards and the outstanding caliber of applying bands, an invitation to perform at the Midwest Clinic is considered the highest achievement that a high school band can attain – only five or six are invited each year. Lakota West also had the distinction of performing at The Midwest Clinic in 2000 and was the first Cincinnati area band to do so. Among music educators, The Midwest Clinic is sometimes referred to as the "Superbowl" for concert bands.

Finally, Greg Snyder, Lakota West band director, was elected to membership in the American Bandmasters Association (ABA). He will be inducted at the group's annual convention in San Luis Obispo, California, in March, 2007. The ABA is considered worldwide as the most prestigious organization for concert band conductors and composers. It is comprised of the most respected professional, military, university, high school, middle school, and community band directors in the United States and Canada. Among its most notable members was legendary bandmaster John Philip Sousa, who was named the first honorary life president in 1929. Of the 290 active members in the ABA, Greg will be one of only 30 who are high school band directors.

About Lakota West Bands. Since its formation as a high school in 1997, Lakota West has become recognized for having one of the premier band programs in the country. There are four high school concert bands (grades 10-12) and two freshman bands (at the Lakota Freshman School). Symphonic Winds, the school's top band, has received straight superior ratings in Class AA at the OMEA state contest every year since the founding of the school. It has been invited twice to perform at The Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago, the foremost international music educators' conference. In 2004, the group completed a European tour, performing at venues in Paris, Brussels and London.

The school's jazz bands and 300-member marching band have also received national exposure and recognition. The Marching Firebirds have earned over 28 Grand Champion awards since the formation of the school and have received a superior rating in Class AA each year at state finals. All travel is paid through private fundraising and by students and their families. The Lakota West band directors are Greg Snyder, Tony Marinello (freshman), and Drews Mitchell (jazz studies). For pictures and more information, please check our web site at www.lakotawestbands.org.

About Lakota West Upbeat Club. The Lakota Upbeat Club, Inc., is a parent booster organization established to provide physical and financial assistance for the band program and to promote community participation and awareness of the program. It consists of the Lakota East Upbeat Club Division and the Lakota West Upbeat Club Division. The President of the Lakota West Upbeat Club Division is Tony Yocco (513-779-7628 or tony.yocco@ae.ge.com).

About Ohio Music Education Association. With over 5,000 members, the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) is the principal organization for promoting music education in the state of Ohio. Its members are involved at all levels of music education from preschool through college, teaching in all areas of music – general music, band, choir, orchestra, private instruction and teacher education. As one of the largest state music education associations in the United States, OMEA is an active advocate for music education not only in the state but also the nation through its affiliated membership with the Music Educators National Conference (MENC). For more information, please check the OMEA web site at www.omea-ohio.org.

About the Midwest Clinic. The Midwest Clinic, an international band and orchestra conference held annually since 1946, is the premier event for music educators and performers each year. Over 14,000 directors, composers, music publishers and dealers from all 50 states and over 30 countries come to see the newest and best in musical talent. For more information, please check The Midwest Clinic web site at www.midwestclinic.org.

About the Rose Parade. Each New Year's Day, the world focuses its attention on Pasadena, California, U.S.A., home of the Rose Parade® and Rose Bowl Game®. It's a celebration more than a century old--a festival of flowers, music and sports unequalled anywhere in the world. The Tournament is more than just a parade and football game. It's America's New Year Celebration, a greeting to the world on the first day of the year, and a salute to the community spirit and love of pageantry that have thrived in Pasadena for more than a century.

The 118th Rose Parade will take place Monday, January 1, 2007 at 8 a.m. (PST) featuring majestic floral floats, high-stepping equestrian units and spirited marching bands from throughout the nation. Following the Rose Parade, at 2 p.m. (PST), the 93rd Rose Bowl Game will feature an exciting match-up between the University of Southern California Trojans and the University of Michigan Wolverines, once again showcasing the best of collegiate football. For additional information, please call (626) 449-ROSE, the 24-hour hotline, or visit www.tournamentofroses.com.

