



Photos by Maddi Kennedy and Nolan Davidson

Freshman Rachel Hutchinson (left) marched during the annual Homecoming Parade. The band plays their competitive marching, “Los Cuervos,” for the community that supports them. Junior drum major Sophie Winkelman (top right) dresses as Dorothy Gale to go with the theme of “There’s No Place Like Homecoming.” Junior Landon Gates (bottom right) performs at the field.

Band’s size, skill level increases for approaching competitions

Maddi Kennedy, staff writer

The Harrisburg Marching Bulldogs started their season with a new trailer and a victory at Murphysboro. The group won first place band, best color guard and best drum majors.

In late December 2017 the band trailer was stolen. When it was recovered, there was severe damage, and could no longer be used. With the band increasing in size, this posed a problem for The Marching Bulldogs. Through sponsors and the school board, the band was able to purchase a new trailer in time to start their upcoming marching season.

“We had outgrown our previous trailer last year so we were hoping, before this whole mess, to purchase a new one,” band director Hannah Drake said. “Our old one would have become a theatre trailer, but since our whole misfortune, that changed our plan significantly.”

The band started rehearsing their marching piece during band camp, and started working on marching two weeks after school began. This year the competition piece is called “Los Cuervos.”

“In the past, we played things that were just really rhythmic and they had one style throughout the entire song,” Drake said. “This time there is a lyrical section in the middle of it, so it gives us a chance to kind of show off in a different style we don’t normally play on the street.”

The band’s improved musical skills can be attributed to the amount of practice and dedication

they put forth in Super State.

“That whole experience has made us a better marching band,” Drake said. “I can really tell their ability to play in different styles and play a little bit more mature content in a song.”

According to junior drum major Sophie Winkelman, it was tough starting the season with the band’s hardest parade. The marching judges for Apple Festival were more experienced and therefore more difficult.

“This year they had a new set of judges, and those judges are experienced as either college band directors or they have been Drum Corps International (DCI) judges,” Drake said.

DCI is considered to be the major league of marching. Compared to having local judges, this is nerve wracking for some of the students.

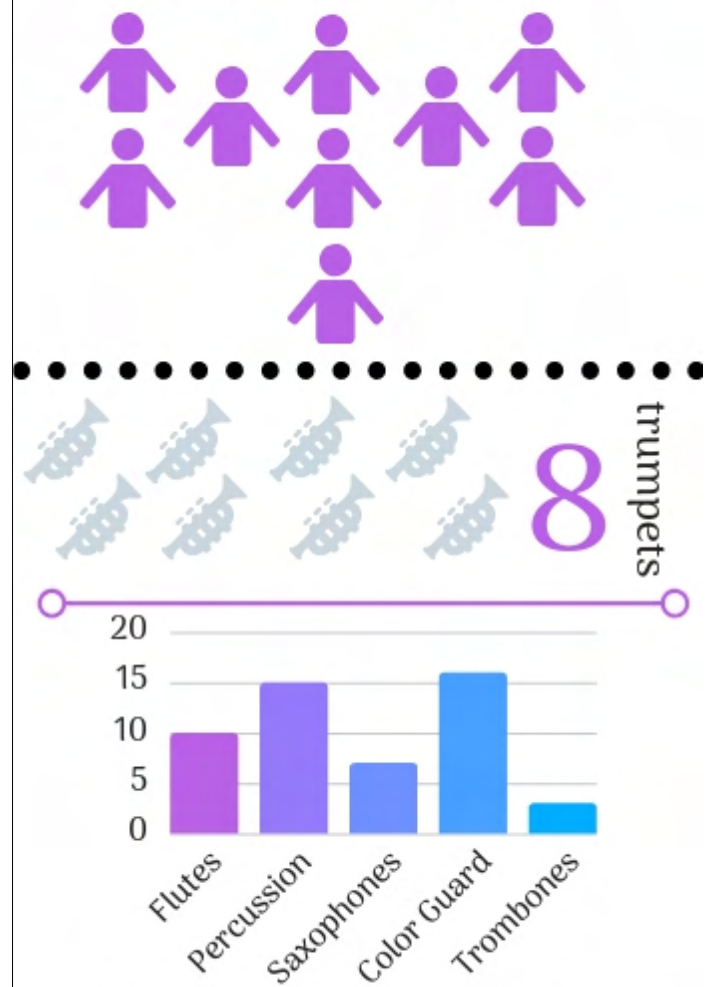
“It was tough having to start on the hardest parade with the hardest judges, but we’ve been working everyday for the past two weeks, and it’s really came together,” Winkelman said.

With a bigger better band comes great responsibility for those in charge, and this year’s section leaders have done a remarkable job, according to Drake.

“With a group this big you have to have help, and our form of help is through our section leaders and drum majors,” Drake said. “They are outstanding so far. I know I can rely on them to get the job done and they do. They absolutely step up to the plate and are not afraid to help lead their group and sections.”

Band by the Numbers

1 icon = 10 students



Infographic by Sara Wangler and Jack Gulley/Canva.