



NJDOE News

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For Release: September 3, 2003

State Board Honors Piscataway High School Superchief Band; Band Members Welcomed as September Students of the Month

The New Jersey State Board of Education today welcomed eight students and two faculty representatives of the Piscataway High School Superchief Band in Middlesex County, as the September students of the month.

This time last year, the band was preparing to march for the first time in the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Parade in New York City. The Piscataway band was the third from New Jersey to march in the parade's 75-year history, according to school officials.

Honored today by the State Board were: Scott Guliano, president; Doug Grimm, vice president; Janelle Ash; Nneka Haynes; Kimberly Miller; LaRay Hare; Shailee Shah; and Dharlyn Ladiana. Also honored were directors Edward Gornick and Christopher G. Sumner. Both men are alumni of the marching band.

"The State Board of Education is pleased to honor the Piscataway High School Superchief Band this month," said Board President Arnold G. Hyndman. "Their dedication to excellence in their craft makes them an appropriate group for us to honor at the beginning of the new school year. The State Board is pleased to acknowledge their accomplishments."

"The Department of Education is proud to join the State Board in welcoming and honoring these Piscataway students," Commissioner of Education William L. Librera said. "We are very proud of the band's accomplishments and we believe their success should be shared statewide. We wish them well in the future."

In 2002, the Piscataway High School Superchief Band took first place in the United States Scholastic Band Association (USSBA) State Championships and won awards for best music, best marching, best percussion and best overall effect. The band also took home the Yamaha Cup Preview of Champions for the last two years.

The Piscataway High School Superchief Band was founded in 1971 with 44 members. It quickly grew to 205 members, a number that remains constant today. Throughout the 1970s, the band began a tradition of excellence that culminated in a 1979 national championship in Daytona, Fla.

The band continued its great success throughout the 1980s and 1990s. They won the first-ever Tropicana Mid-Atlantic Championship in 1983 and the USSBA competition at Giants Stadium in 1988. They also marched - and took first place - in St. Patrick's Day parades in Dublin and Limerick, Ireland in both 1981 and 1985.

Most recently, the band have appeared at numerous halftime shows at New York Giants, New York Jets, Washington Redskins and Buffalo Bills football games. They have also performed for the Walt Disney Company at the Radio City Music Hall premier of "Pete's Dragon" and at Mickey Mouse's 50th Birthday Whistlestop Tour at Penn Station.

For more information, please contact the Department of Education Public Information Office at (609) 292-1126.