

MET LIFE STADIUM

Norwalk High band takes first



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The Norwalk High School Marching Band.

BAND

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N.J., on Saturday, besting dozens of other schools from across the nation.

"We are very proud of these students," said band director Chris Rivera. "They have been working hard on this show since August, putting in countless hours rehearsing and perfecting their performance. To see it end up with a championship is truly fantastic."

The band, performing in Class VI Open, scored a 97.775 out of a possible 100, winning its second national championship in four years. Trumbull High School came in a close second, with a score of 97.613.

Norwalk earned additional awards for Best Music and Best Overall Effect. The win caps an undefeated season for the band, which starts its competitive season in the fall beginning with an intensive band camp prior to the start of school in August.

The Norwalk High School Marching Band is made up of over 175 student musicians and color guard members, and boasts academic excellence in addition to award-winning performances.

"Over 90 percent of these students maintain a 3.0 GPA or better," Rivera said. "This program, music and the arts, are truly helping to better prepare these students for what



Contributed photo

The Norwalk High School Marching Band won the U.S. Bands National Championship on Saturday at Met Life Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

lies ahead."

Augie DiMasi is the parent of two NHS band students — his daughter is a sophomore flute player and his son is freshman alto saxophonist — and is part of the band's parent equipment crew, responsible for transporting the gear to and from performances.

DiMasi described the feeling of watching his children win a national championship as outstanding.

"You get emotional because

Students win U.S. Bands National Championship

By Kaitlyn Krasselt

NORWALK — The Norwalk High School Band had just eight minutes to impress the judges.

And impress they did.

The band was named best in the country at the U.S. Bands National Championships at Met Life Stadium in East Rutherford,

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your kids just won the national championship," DiMasi said. "You feel like you're a part of it."

The day started at 1 p.m. with a rehearsal, and the team headed out around 5 p.m. for the performance. The Bears were one of the last bands to perform, with their eight-minute show "Relics" beginning at 10:50 p.m. Saturday, DiMasi said. The awards ceremony did not occur until almost midnight, by which point the students were still hopeful but did not know if they would win.

"They were pretty amazed," DiMasi said. "They didn't think they would win. They were going up against some very good bands. They put it out there and did a good job. I think they're still in amazement that they won ... seeing how hard they work throughout the year. They deserved it. I think they put in more work than a lot of the sports teams do."

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