

# TUNING UP FOR A GREAT YEAR

By: Caroline West

After almost two long years of living in a Covid world, the band finally got back to an accustomed routine.

According to the head-band director, Kelly Duncan, "The Lafayette High School Band was very well ready to get back to normal and to start their 2021 marching season."

He loved seeing the students excelling in what they love to do. Although they didn't score as high as they wanted in the past 2019 season, this drove them to work even harder this marching season.

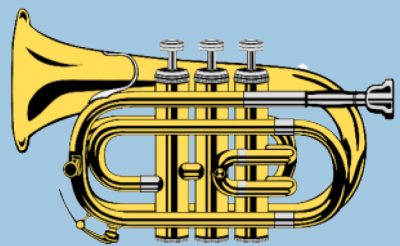
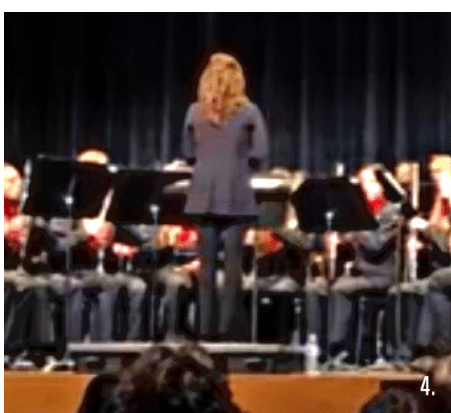
The band took two weeks out of the summer for band camp. They also had many long and sometimes hard practices during school and after school to get ready for their competitions. All of this hard work in prepping for the contests did pay off.

The band ended up scoring all superior at the state evaluation in Grenada. Then, the following week at the Itawamba contest, the band scored first place in every section in the 5A category. They were very honored and excited to not only get all superior but to win first place.

Drum Major, Joshua Wilson, junior, said, "Both getting all superior and winning first place was great."

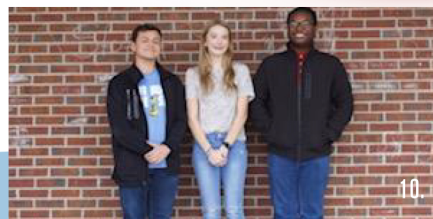
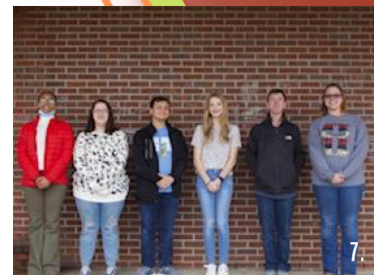
Wilson thought that the Grenada contest meant the most because the band got a chance to redeem themselves with a better score from the previous contests two years ago.

The 2021 Lafayette High School Band did a fabulous job in their marching season this year. Their hard work and dedication most definitely paid off. (1) (2) (3)



# BAND

## LIONS BAND



## THE SOUND OF SUCCESS

By: Caroline West

For the second year in a row, Lafayette High School has had four students, Cameron Bolen, 10; Sloane Clark, 11; Makayla Toles, 11; and William West, 11; try out for the Mississippi All-State Lions Band. Two of the students, Cameron Bolen and William West, made the Lions Band.

This is a very big honor for anyone who tries out, and an even bigger honor for those who make it. This is because the Lions Band is only for the best of the best musicians in the state.

This year, we were very fortunate for our two students who made the band to score in the top five chairs. Cameron Bolen scored first chair, and William West scored fifth chair. Not to mention, they are both in the percussion section and both made the band on the snare drum. Cameron and Will worked extremely hard and practiced day in and day out for this audition.

Both boys felt ready for their audition. They were also very excited when they made the band again.

Bolen said, "My first reaction was in pure amazement that I had placed higher than the person who made first chair the year before despite them seeming like a better player than me."

"My first reaction was surprised, but immediately after, I got over it and started getting my mind on next year" West added.

The percussion director, Jeff West, felt that both boys were very well prepared for their audition. Although they scored well, he thought that the way they felt afterward and how they realized that when you set a goal you are dedicated to, it is an even better thing when you work hard and achieve it.

Lafayette High School has very talented and devoted commodores. The result of their hard work was definitely worth their dedication. (5)

# HONOR BAND

This year, the Lafayette Band had four groups of students go to honor bands. Students Cameron Bolen, 10; Claire Davis, 10; William West, 11; and Joshua Wilson, 11; went to the Northeast Honor Band (6), Cameron Bolen, Claire Davis (10), Grayce Hughes, 12; Jasmine Manning, 12; Makayla Toles, 11; Matthew Vanderwall, 11; and William West attended Ole Miss Honor Band (7), Malachi Boles, 9; Sloane Clark, 11; Sydney Howell, 11; Jasmine Manning, and Joseph Moore, 11; were selected to go to 155 Honor Band (8), lastly, Cameron Bolen, Claire Davis and Joshua Wilson attended MSU Honor Band (10). Unfortunately, the 155 Honor Band got canceled due to ice, but we are still very proud of the students that were selected to represent our school. Not only was this a special year for our students, but it was also a special year for our directors. This year, percussion director, Jeff West, was presented the George Henry Schultz Outstanding Band Director Award, given by the Northeast Mississippi Band Masters Association (9). This award is given in honor of George Henry Schultz to band directors who have done an outstanding job in their band program and communities. We are very honored to have such great band directors in our district.

## STUDENT AWARDS



11.

This year, at the Band Banquet, two students Jasmine Manning, 12; and William West, 11; won awards. Manning won The Best Marcher Award. This award is given to a student that showed outstanding marching skills in marching season. West won the John Phillips Sousa Award. This award is presented to a student that shows outstanding interest and achievement for instrumental music. This student also displays the high standards of behavior that this type of music calls for. (11, 12)



12.

# CONCERT SEASON

Each spring, the band is required to attend a concert evaluation. At the evaluation, the band plays songs for judges and gets rated on their performance. After the performance, they then travel to a room and have 10 minutes to look at a piece of music that they have never seen before. The band can't play even a single note of the music, they can only look and talk about the music. When the 10 minutes are up, the band has to play the piece of music for another set of judges and gets scored on how well they play it.

Both the performance and sight-reading are based on a number scale, one to four. One being the best, two being mediocre, three being a little worse than average, and four being the lowest score you can receive.

This year every judge gave the band a one in concert performance and sight-reading. When this rare occasion occurs, the band receives an award called the sweepstakes award meaning that they are all around superior. The Commodore Band represents Lafayette High School very well.

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