

PORT CHESTER & RYE BROOK

38 Broad Street
Port Chester, NY 10573

Westmore
NEWS

Tel: 914-939-6864
Fax: 914-939-6877

Pride of Port Chester named 'Outstanding Musical Band' in historic Philadelphia St. Patrick's Day Parade

Thursday, March 14, 2019 3:25 AM

The Pride of Port Chester had an outstanding weekend marching on an historic Pennsylvania street to earn prestigious acknowledgement while performing in the second oldest parade in the country: the Philadelphia St. Patrick's Day Parade.

After touring Philadelphia on Saturday, Mar. 9, the Port Chester High School Marching Band premiered their new uniforms in the St. Patrick's Day Parade



Debuting their new uniforms for parade performance, brass members of the Port Chester High School Marching Band strike an attentive pose at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Philadelphia on Sunday, Mar. 10. Photo by Mike Miceli

on Mar. 10. Despite drizzling rain, the band students marched on to win the award for "Outstanding Musical Band" in the competition against the other adult and high school groups celebrating Irish culture and pride during the festivity. Side by side with the Pride of Port Chester, the procession also included bagpipe bands, brass bands, and traditional Irish marching bands.

The parade, roughly two miles long, ran down Philadelphia's Market Street from the 16th Street lineup area, past City Hall, past the Liberty Bell and ended near the water at Penn's Landing. Along the route, students played "National Emblem March" by Edwin. E. Bagley and "Danza" by Dave Dion from their 2018 fall field show, "Alma del Bailador: Soul of the Dancer."

In front of judges and Philadelphia Fox Channel 29 TV cameras at the grandstand, the band then performed Rafael Hernandez's "El Cumbanchero" from the same repertoire.

Senior tenor sax section leader Michael Fallanca reigned as parade drum major.

"A memorable moment was when a parade bystander began playing the 'Rocky' theme song at the marching band on a duck caller/kazoo," said Band Director Mike Miceli. "The parade was at

a halt, so we turned to our right and blasted our own pep band version of 'Rocky' right back at him. The crowd gave us big cheers!"

On Saturday, the band toured Independence Hall, saw the Liberty Bell, explored the Franklin Institute, and viewed the IMAX film "Oceans." The culminating activity of the trip was a race between Miceli and Band President Ryan Heffernan up the Rocky Steps. The Port Chester High School senior won the race to the cheers of his bandmates.

The Port Chester High School Marching Band wishes to thank the entire village and school community for their support, especially for fundraising participation that makes trip and competitions like this possible, said Band Parent Association Director of Public Relations Jennifer Carriero-Dominguez.

A special thanks goes to the hardworking parents and staff who organized and planned the trip, prepared the students for their brilliant performance and chaperoned them throughout the weekend. The PCHS Band Parent Association and our community cannot be more proud of the talented musicians for their outstanding behavior and performance in a parade they will never forget, Carriero-Dominguez said.