

School News from the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario

School: St. John CHS

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From: Bob Perreault, Communications Officer

bob.perreault@cdsbeo.on.ca



Box 2222, 2755 Highway 43, Kemptville, ON K0G 1J0
613-258-7757 or 1-800-443-4562 ext. 206

St. John Catholic High School Earns Gold Medal at MusicFest National Competition

Perth, ON – The 40 students who make up the senior concert band at St. John Catholic High School in Perth are celebrating a successful trip to the MusicFest national competition held in Ottawa.

The band performed incredibly well and earned a gold medal. The school's concert band, made up of students from Grades 9 to 12, competed in category B200.

St. John Band Director, Murray McNeely, said the students have been working hard to achieve the honour. "They have sacrificed so much of their own time for one another. Every member of the band wanted to perform as well as possible, to represent our Catholic school community as best as they could. I am so proud of what they have done, their dedication has certainly paid off."

MusicFest Canada celebrated its 36th annual festival in downtown Ottawa at the National Arts Centre, University of Ottawa, and Dominion-Chalmers United Church from May 12 through 17. The weeklong event saw more than 10,000 young musicians from across Canada gather to share their musical gifts. Since its beginning in 1972, MusicFest Canada has enriched the level of music education across the nation, while providing Canadian students a truly measurable goal: that of musical excellence.

St. John Catholic High School Principal, Ken Crosby, said the entire school is proud of the accomplishment. "The band members are proving to be positive role models for their fellow students. They have shown they can enter these competitions displaying sportsmanship and respect. We are certainly proud of them, they have maintained their Gospel values, and presented themselves as wonderful representatives for our school."

Superintendent of Education, Dr. Donaleen Hawes, extended her congratulations to Mr. McNeely and the entire band. "It is always wonderful to see our students recognized for their talents. I know Mr. McNeely and his entire group have worked so hard to produce this gold medal result and I congratulate them on this wonderful accomplishment."

For more information, please contact CDSBEO Communications Officer Bob Perreault at 613-258-7757 or 1-800-443-4562 ext. 206 or 613-859-0678 (mobile).

The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario operates 40 elementary and 10 secondary schools across 8 counties. The CDSBEO offers excellence in Catholic education through provincial-leading programs to approximately 15,000 students.