GHS Band Competitions

By: Natalia Santillan, Reporter

The Pride of Gentry, also known as the Gentry band, has had several successful competitions, starting October 3rd through the 17th. On September 26th, Gentry also hosted the Inaugural Sounds of the Ozarks.



Band director Ruby Contreras said, “I would like to say that it's been great seeing the band grow over the years, not only in size, but in quality and leadership. This season is more special to me because my first group of beginners are now freshmen, and the first group of freshmen are now fantastic seniors.”

The Berryville Bobcats were the champions for the Inaugural Sounds of the Ozarks. The Pride of Gentry was grateful to the Sounds of the Ozarks volunteers for helping create a wonderful experience, Midcon Exteriors and Chili’s for providing food for the hospitality room, the band booster officers, the administration for supporting the band program, Palen Music for sponsoring the band clinicians, the judge panel and the clinicians, TMF for providing cool merchandise, Doc Savage for announcing, and the Gentry EAST programs for helping by providing live video of the participating bands' photography and for working the video board. To say the band’s first hosting competition was a success is an understatement.

Assistant band director Derek Wood said, “Our students have seen tremendous growth in musicality and character. I'm proud of the work they've put in, and I can't wait to see how they grow during the upcoming concert season.”



The next competition that the Pride of Gentry competed in was the Devil Dog Classic in Morrilton at 2:00 PM. The Pride of Gentry earned 3rd place in Class B and scored excellent 2nd division band, excellent 2nd division percussion, and excellent 2nd division color guard.

Senior Braiden Sales said, “My favorite memory from all the band competitions would have to be winning every award at West Fork.”



The second competition the Pride of Gentry competed in was the Bobcat Marching Invitational in Berryville at 7:30 PM. The Pride of Gentry earned Superior 1st Division, Outstanding Brass, and Outstanding Color Guard.

Senior Giselle Tovar said, “My favorite memory from this year's marching band season would have to be the West Fork Marching Invitational! At that competition, it was very exciting to perform two times, and it was even more fun to win almost every award! On top of that, we got to meet the Band Mom and got free stickers and pins!”



The next activity the Pride of Gentry participated in was the Region Marching Assessment at Rogers High School at 4:30 PM. The Pride of Gentry earned Excellent in Division 2, and they qualified for the State Marching Contest.

Senior Ezra Griffis said, “The competition most fresh on my mind is the last competition we performed this year at West Fork. I think my favorite memory from West Fork was the awards ceremonies. We completely swept every major award from prelims and finals; the entire band was so excited. It was so rewarding to see our hard work as a band pay off and receive positive feedback on our show.”



The fourth competition that the Pride of Gentry had competed in was the West Fork Marching Invitational at West Fork High School. The band performed in the finals at 4:30 PM and did an excellent job in the Class C prelims awards.

When asked what their most memorable moment in the competitions was, senior Elizabeth Lo answered, “The adrenaline of whether my band and I were going to hear ‘The Pride of Gentry’ from the announcer had me on the edge of my seat. Just hearing those words made it memorable. We worked hard, made improvements, and had come a long way from the beginning of school, and knowing that our band was called for the majority of the trophies told us that all of our hard work had paid off. I’m proud of my band and the hard work they put in for this year. And after I graduate, I’ll know from my heart that they’ll achieve greater things in the future.”

The Pride of Gentry will have a State Marching Contest next Monday, November 9th at War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock. If you are interested in seeing how that competition goes, feel free to check the *Pioneer Press* for when it comes out!