

NEWS

QUAPAW BAND TAKES 3RD AT OSU HOMECOMING PARADE

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Oklahoma State University celebrated its 100th homecoming on Saturday, Oct. 30, but the Quapaw band had its own celebrating to do after taking third place during OSU's Sea of Orange Parade.

The band may be small compared to some, but its members are mighty and band teacher Sarah Fanning couldn't be prouder of her students.

"We just love the experience, it's very different from parades we go to around here," said Fanning. "It's just very college town oriented. They're always excited to see us, they're excited that we're there and they're very supportive of us."

Prior to the OSU parade, the Quapaw band played at Pittsburgh State University's homecoming parade on Oct. 16 in Pittsburgh, Kansas. Fanning said it was kind of rough but a good experience. Then, they put in a couple of weeks' worth of work getting ready for the OSU parade



Photo by Moira K. McGhee

Members of the Quapaw High School band show off their trophy they received following the Oklahoma State homecoming parade competition.

and it paid off.

"They did a lot better and they had a lot of fun," Fanning said. "That's more important. It's a very long day and having fun is what it's all about. If they're enjoying it, it's good no matter how we do."

The band doesn't do competitive marching as far as field shows go, but they do like the parades. However, Fanning wishes OSU would send them the judging sheets so they could see how they

were doing and where they needed to improve.

She explained that a lot can go into the judging. They judge the band's marching and whether everyone is in a straight line, horizontally and vertically, and uniform in their steps. They're also judged on their actual uniforms, so they must make sure they all look the same, from their hat position down to the shoes they're wearing.

Overall, she said they mostly judge the way the band sounds and their general effect, which simply means how they look coming down the street.

"They also take into consideration our musical

choice," said Fanning. "They determine if it's a good choice for our group and if they can hear all the parts of the group."

The Quapaw band played "Land of 1,000 Dances." It's a piece they've played for many years. Fanning said they just picked a song that worked well for the group. They wanted something they could all do fairly well and for that long at a time and still sound good.

"There's quite a bit that goes into it if you think about it," she said. "It's A LOT of information that the kids have to process all at the same time while marching down the street. Marching

and playing and staying in step and in line the whole time. There's a whole lot to think people understand or appreciate."

Because Quapaw is a smaller school, Fanning's band actually consists of students from seventh through 12th grade. She has roughly 25 band members and right now, many of them are seventh and eighth graders. She only has six members who are sophomores and up, which includes two seniors.

"We're kind of in a rebuilding season with lots of young, inexperienced players that just want to give it a

shot," said Fanning. "And, I'd rather have a smaller band that cares about each other and spends time together than a great big band. While a bigger band sounds great, you just don't have the relationship you have with a smaller band. It's more about the experience for us."

The first year the band attended the OSU parade was in 2013 when they were invited to perform. Since then, they've been signing up each year. This is Fanning's 10th year as the band and choir teacher at Quapaw. A majority of her band students are also in choir, so they spend even more time together than most bands.

"We truly spend a lot of time together and get to know one another. Whether we like it or not, we have to be a family. That's another great thing you have at a small school that you might not have at others."

Members of the QHS band are:

Percussion — Grant Eby, Shamika Foster, Acey Moreland, Kaity Thomas, Caidence Thrasher and Avani Vamadevan

Low Brass — Mason Copeland

Trumpets — Lydia Daugherty, Scarlet Ramey and Mason Turner

Clarinets — Rachel Clonts, Malina Bailey, Makynzee Lovell and K'din Stanley

Flutes — Cadence Green and K'vin Stanley

Saxophones — Bristol Berryman, Bailey Ervin and Abby Rogers

Banner carriers and marching assistants include Logan Eby, Haley Eppinger, Angelina Hartley, Braylin Jacobson, Gregory McGirt and Addison McGuire



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