

## **Texas State Champion Honor Band Awarded to CMS North Band**

The CMS North Band kicked off the new school year blasting favorite tunes including "Wipe Out" and "Louie, Louie" to a large crowd at the CMSN gym. About 150 seventh and eighth graders attended summer band camp for the week and when the entire group belted out a tune, it could be heard in the parking lot.

Mr. Anthony Hill, Coppell ISD School Board President, presented the TMEA Texas State Champion Honor Band trophy to the CMSN Band to close out their week of band camp. In addition, North Band Director Mr. Joey Ashbrook read a recent Senate Proclamation sponsored and written by Senator Chris Harris congratulating the band on their accomplishment.

The North Band was selected as the Texas State Honor Band in San Antonio over the summer and this distinction is the highest honor for a band program in the state of Texas. The North band faced a rigorous competition from district, region and area levels to advance to state, and received the state's highest honor out of over 580 CC middle school bands in Texas.

As the Texas State Honor Band, the North Band will perform in the rotunda of the Capital Building for the Governor and Senate of Texas in Austin. This will be followed by a featured concert at the Texas Music Educators Association convention to be held in San Antonio in February. Previously, the North Band was the State Honor Band in 2007-2008 and was the first runner-up in 2010.

Throughout the week, this year's band members could be heard practicing scales, playing new music, and learning the traditions associated with the band. Including the incoming sixth graders, the North band will have approximately 370 members this year.

Several of last year's eighth graders were seen helping the new members of the North Band in sectionals during this week of band camp. When asked why they would spend their time in the North band hall when they had already spent four hours at the CHS morning band camp, responses were quick.

"I just miss it. This was my family while I was here."

"I have never worked so hard for something in my life. These kids are lucky; I wish I could do it again."

The band is under the direction of Mr. Joey Ashbrook and Mr. Jeremy Lindquist. CMS North Principal is Dr. Leanne Dorhout.