

Jackson Liberty marching band chosen to represent NJ at 2012 Independence Day Parade in Washington, DC



JACKSON – When the President of the United States watches the National Independence Day Parade in Washington, D.C. he is going to see Jackson Liberty High School students as the official representatives of New Jersey.

“It is a really big honor to be chosen and I’m so proud our students have earned this opportunity,” said Liberty Band Director Scott Katona. “I know our kids will represent the town of Jackson as well as the state of New Jersey proudly.”

The Liberty Lion band was selected after the National Selection Committee reviewed its application, video and recording. The committee selects just one band to represent each state. The Liberty Band will take the trip to our nation’s capitol from July 3-5, 2012.

“I’m excited and honored that our band was chosen,” said Jason Lyons, a junior in the band and drum captain. “Not everyone gets the chance to play for the president. It will be an experience I’ll never forget.”

The parade route is on historical Constitution Avenue from 7th to 17th Streets. A street audience of hundreds of thousands of spectators is anticipated not to mention the President, cabinet members, congressmen, senators and much more.

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“I feel like it’s a great opportunity to represent our school, our town and our state,” said senior band member and section leader Kristina Bogdan. “Our band works extremely hard and I’m very proud of this accomplishment.”

Since the school opened just five years ago, the Liberty Lion Band has earned many accolades. Over the past two years, the student musicians have taken a total of 12 first place finishes and received awards for best percussion, best colorguard, best music, best visual performance and best overall effect. In 2010, the jazz band placed 3rd in the State at the NJ State Jazz Finals and throughout the season had taken numerous awards home such as best section awards soloist awards and overall best band awards.

The traditional parade is a reflection of many American patriotic themes, historical and present which acts as a Salute to the birthday of our great nation. The National Park Service and the National Independence Day Parade are the co-sponsors of this event. Parade participants will include military units, marching bands, veterans groups, military vehicles, flag teams, and many other exciting and colorful units. Large patriotic floats and helium-filled balloons will also be a part of procession.