

AHS Admirals Marching Band Wins Third Consecutive State Championship

For the third consecutive year, the Arlington Admirals High School Marching Band has brought home the first place trophy, or Governor's Cup, in the National Class from the New York State Field Band Conference Championship with a score of 95.00. The competition took place on October 28 at the Carrier Dome at Syracuse University.



The band is under the direction of Band Director Darrell Keech, along with Assistant Band Directors Evan R zodkiewicz and Lynda Keech and Color Guard Director Albert Cousins. One hundred and twenty Arlington students took to the field and performed their 2018 production, "Electric World," led by Drum Majors Alex Gray, Phoebe Anderson and Anna Spendley.

Musical selections from their 2018 show include: **Symphony No. 9 in E minor, "From the New World"** by *Antonín Dvorák* and **What a Wonderful World** by *Louis Armstrong*.

"The caliber and consistency of marching bands across the state was at an all time high this fall. Cicero-North Syracuse, Baldwinsville, West Genesee and Victor high schools all had a chance on the last night of season. To earn first place with such a strong field was an amazing accomplishment for Arlington," said Keech.

The Arlington Admiral Marching Band has brought home the state title four times in its 51 year history: in 2004, 2016, 2017 and 2018.

"Marching band isn't about being better than other bands, it is about being the best YOU can be. Sometimes you'll earn trophies along the way, but the beauty of marching band isn't what place you're in, it's about swimming with bigger fishes and showing them what you can do. That is what we have done for the past three years, and we will remember these moments always," said AHS Marching Band Drum Major Alex Gray.



According to the NYS Field Band Conference website, more than 4,000 high school band members representing 53 high school marching bands from throughout the state competed in the conference championship. Bands are divided into six different classifications based on school size and past competitive experience. Arlington competed in the National Class, which is the premier classification for high school bands in New York. The best eight bands in the state competed on the same field on the same night to determine who would be named champion.

"There is no way this would be possible without the dedication of so many students, parents, instructional staff and volunteers," said Keech.

