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PRESS RELEASE

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Upland High School Regiment Celebrates Competition Sweep, Nearly Doubles in Size Since 2021

UPLAND – The Upland High School (UHS) Highland Regiment is marching to the beat of success, sweeping all captions at a recent Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association (SCSBOA) competition while celebrating a remarkable resurgence that has seen the program grow by more than 80% since 2022.

Competing against other Division 6A high school bands at Colony High School on Oct. 3, the Regiment earned Sweepstakes honors in every caption, marking a significant achievement for a program that has steadily rebuilt its membership following the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Regiment has grown from 100 students in 2021 to 198 this year, nearly doubling in size. With 78 freshmen joining the program this fall, the Regiment's continued growth reflects strong student interest in music education and a thriving culture of camaraderie, teamwork, and school pride.

“To see how far this program has come in just a few years is incredibly rewarding,” UHS Director of Bands Ernest Miranda said. “We've worked hard to rebuild our program following the pandemic, and our students have embraced every opportunity to grow and improve. Sweeping the competition is a tremendous accomplishment, but what makes it especially meaningful is knowing how much dedication, teamwork, and perseverance went into getting us here.”

The Highland Regiment includes a pipe band, drum line, color guard, jazz bands, and wind ensemble, providing students with opportunities to explore their musical interests while developing valuable skills that extend beyond the performance field.

Preparation for the fall competition season begins in May. The Regiment also offers an intensive summer regiment camp program offered where students sharpen their musical and marching skills under the guidance of experienced instructors. Throughout the season, students dedicate countless hours to rehearsals and individual practice, learning discipline, accountability, and time management while working toward a common goal.

This year's field show, “The Vanishing Act,” features a circus theme complete with ringleaders, red-and-white striped tents, and costumes inspired by circus performers, showcasing students' musical talents and precision on the field.

The Regiment's success also reflects Upland Unified's commitment to providing a strong foundation in music education. Nearly all current Regiment students that play an instrument participated in band during elementary or junior high school, illustrating how early exposure to music can inspire continued involvement throughout students' educational journeys.

Beyond competition, the Regiment has cultivated a close-knit community supported by dedicated families, alumni, and local businesses. Parents volunteer countless hours, while community fundraisers and sponsorships help sustain the program. Many alumni maintain lifelong connections, returning as instructors or supporting the next generation of Highland Regiment performers.

"The Regiment is so much more than a music program. It's a family where students find their place, build lasting friendships, and discover what they're capable of achieving," Miranda said. "Our students put in countless hours preparing for each performance, and along the way, they're developing confidence, discipline, and leadership skills that will serve them long after graduation. We're incredibly fortunate to have families and community members who share that commitment and help make these experiences possible."

The Regiment will continue its competition season with appearances at the Bands of America Regionals and Western Band Association Championships in Fresno, building on its recent success while inspiring the next generation of student musicians.

"The Highland Regiment's remarkable growth and competitive success are a testament to the dedication of our students, the passion of our educators, and the unwavering support of our families and community, and they continue to shine year after year," Upland Unified Superintendent Dr. Lynn Carmen Day said. "We are proud to provide students with a strong foundation in the arts from an early age, creating opportunities for them to discover their talents, pursue their passions, and develop skills that will benefit them throughout their lives. Congratulations to the entire Regiment on this outstanding achievement."

PHOTO CAPTIONS

UUSD REGIMENT1: The Upland High School Regiment earned Sweepstakes honors at the Oct. 3 SCSBOA competition at Colony High School, taking home trophies in every caption.

UUSD REGIMENT2: The UHS Regiment's award-winning 2026 fall field show features the full Regiment of nearly 200 students.

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