

November 22, 2010

## **Black and Gold Brigade are Back-to-Back State Champs!**

### ***Capistrano Valley High School Marching Band Takes First Place Honors Again at State Finals.***

**MISSION VIEJO, Calif.** – Neither threatening gray skies nor rain clouds looming overhead could deter one of Southern California's premier high school marching band's from clinching yet another state victory on Saturday.

Capistrano Valley High School's Black and Gold Brigade took the field once again at the Southern California Judging Association (SCJA) state finals on November 20 in Huntington Beach, hoping for a repeat win as state champions in the 3A division.

As soon as the judges announced the first-place school's name, the crowd of spectators, which included over a hundred CVHS parents and supporters, burst out in a deafening roar of cheers and foot stomping in the stands, causing the announcer to playfully comment on their enthusiasm.

With this latest victory, the school's 67-member marching band has taken three first place state titles in just five years.

In addition to its first-place award, Capo also took home four sweepstakes trophies. These included high (best) music, high (best) visual, high (best) percussion and high general (overall) effect. Sweepstakes awards go to the bands judged to be the best among all the other schools competing in the division.

"Back in August, we knew as a staff and design team that this show could be something special," said Andy Waldukat, director of instrumental music at CVHS. "I was very proud that our students got to raise their helmets and finish the season with their best performance of the year at championships."

The band's mastery of the field was apparent right from the start of its routine, which included energetic and complex marching patterns, richly layered sophisticated music, and trumpet, mellophone, trombone and flute solos.

This year's theme was "The Gypsy Life," and, in addition to the musicians, also included a lively, theatrically choreographed performance by the 17-member Color Guard dressed as gypsies.

Competition in the 3A division consisted of nine bands from around Southern California, who had competed in a series of qualifying events to secure a spot in the state finals.

"Winning back-to-back SCJA Championships is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students, administration, staff and parent volunteers of the Black and Gold brigade," said Waldukat. "Each group played an important role in the success of the final performance on the field."

In addition to its state win, the CVHS marching band also took first place division trophies at the Marching Band Open Series (MBOS) Competition and the Surf City Open earlier this season.

For more information about the CVHS music program, visit [www.cvhsmusic.org](http://www.cvhsmusic.org).

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