

**Prepared Notes for Board Meeting – Band Recognition**  
**February 13, 2012**  
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It is a special privilege to recognize the Thomas Worthington marching band. Let's face it. The number of opportunities we have in this district to show off our students to the folks in Worthington who do not have kids in our schools is relatively small, but several times a year, the Thomas Worthington marching band provides just such an opportunity. Whether it's hearing them practice while driving or running on 161 or performing at the Memorial Day parade or the market days celebration or any home football game, the Thomas Worthington Marching Band is a constant in our lives and in the fabric of our community.

The Thomas Worthington Marching Band has a long tradition of excellence. They've received "Superior" ratings in 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and now, in 2011. When a team is that good for that long, you sometimes have to take a step back and look at what it takes to earn that "Superior" rating, so of course, I looked it up. From the Ohio Music Education Association State Finals program:

*The Ohio Music Education Association sanctions marching band festivals in the State of Ohio in hopes of providing a broad-based opportunity for marching units of the state's schools to participate in an educational setting. These bands are not competing against one another, but rather against a standard, as determined by the Ohio Five Rating Plan. Each band brings to these State Finals its own musical and marching "style" identity, and for these reasons, the Ohio Music Education Association prefers to "rate" the bands according to a standard, rather than ranking them.*

To earn a Superior rating, the band must display "An outstanding performance with very few technical errors and exemplifying a truly musical expression. This should be reserved for the truly outstanding performance."

Personally, I can't even imagine the coordination required to play a musical instrument as part of a group while also marching around a football field, but the Pride of Cardinal Country makes it look easy which I'm sure it is not.

At this time, I would like to call up Band Director Mike Maynard along with Assistant Directors Ryan Alexis and Eric Dolittle and the entire Thomas Worthington Marching Band to receive their certificate and perhaps Mike, Ryan and Eric can tell us a little bit about this year's program and what they did to earn another "Superior" rating.