

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HARTLAND BANDS AND CHOIRS PERFORM AT DISNEY

200 Hartland High School band and choir students spent the past week performing at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida. The band performed a parade in the Magic Kingdom on March 30, and the choir performed at Disney Springs on March 29. Both groups also participated in music workshops with Walt Disney World musicians. The Marching Eagles, under the direction of Brad Laibly, Joe Guarr, and Allison Laibly, paraded throughout the Magic Kingdom as an opening act for the 3pm afternoon parade in front of a sold out crowd of 70,000 guests. The choir, led by Bailey Shepherd, performed at the Waterside Stage at Disney Springs. The band students attended two workshops led by Scott Devlin, who has been a Walt Disney World musician for 25 years. He leads Walt Disney World saxophone quartet that you can hear regularly at the Magic Kingdom. The choir attended a workshop led by Jenny, who is an alumni of the Voices of Liberty acapella ensemble that performs daily at EPCOT. Musicians at each of the workshops learned what it was like to be a Disney musician and how to work as a musician in a recording studio. The trip was originally scheduled for March, 2021, but was cancelled due to the pandemic. Junior Drum Major, Makenna Usher said, "I'm so glad we finally got the chance to go on this amazing trip and march down Main Street, USA." Junior Drum Major, Gavyn Forcia said, "This once in a lifetime opportunity was the culmination of weeks of hard work and many miles of travel. I couldn't be more proud of the performance of our band put on this week." Senior Drum Major, Camryn Ihrke said, "I'm so grateful to wrap up my senior year of marching band with a trip to Disney with all of my friends. After 8 years of

playing in band with the seniors, Disney was a great finale to our hard work. Senior Choir President, Rachel Mah said, “I had so much fun traveling to Disney with this group of people! So many things to reminisce and so many more friendships made even stronger.” Brad Laibly, director of bands said, “We are so grateful for the support of the Hartland administration by approving this trip and to our community for supporting the arts in Livingston County. We hope our band and choir members created lifelong memories through this experience.”

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