

Band Highlights

Honor Band- SFT had 5 band students make the district honor band earlier this year. Alisha Gibbs qualified to be able to audition for the all-state group in Salina. These students are shown below.

Ottawa Jazz Festival- In January, the SFT Jazz band was invited to perform at Ottawa University Jazz Festival. Members of the Jazz faculty held a master class for the students in the morning, followed by a question/answer discussion on what to look for when choosing a college. The students were also able to listen to professional jazz musicians from Kansas City and were even invited to sit in a play with them. The Festival concluded with 9 schools (including SFT) from around the state playing in an evening performance that included the OU Jazz band. (Pictures below)

Tuba Christmas- Every December, Tuba and Baritone players from the Midwest gather at the Kauffman Performing Arts Center in Kansas City to play one mass Christmas concert for approximately 2,000 people. This year, just under 500 players showed up to perform including 10 Tuba/Baritone Players from SFT. It is an amazing experience for the students and is something that they look forward to every year. (Pictures Below)

New Orleans- This was an enjoyable and eventful trip in which I can honestly say, never had a dull moment. There were a few speed bumps, but the kids were great and the experience was invaluable. Some of the activities included: Marti Gras World, Swamp Tour, Master class at Loyola University, Audubon Aquarium, The French Quarter, The Jazz Museum and US Mint, and the WWII museum. (pictures below)

Solo Ensemble Festival- 11 members from the band participated in the regional solo/ ensemble festival at Desoto in April. The Students performed well and Emily Miller qualified for state where she received a two rating.

State Large group Festival- Another festival that the band participated in was the KSHSAA large group festival. The band performed two pieces for the judges and received ratings of 1, 2, and 2 for an overall two rating. This was quite an accomplishment for them given that they were grouped with many Kansas City Schools and only 4 ones were given out of just over 30 schools.

Spring Concert- The SFT band wished farewell to the seniors at the final concert of the year on April 30th. Gifts and awards were given to the members and also to 2 people for their outstanding contributions to music education. Those 2 individuals were Mr. Dave Swaim and Mr. Jim Gates.

Masonic Band- 6 students have been sponsored by our local Masonic Lodges to participate in the masonic all state band camp. The students will head to Pitt State in July to perform during halftime at the Kansas Shrine bowl. This has been a great experience for the students in the past and we would like to thank all of the lodge members for their support! (picture of last year's members below).









