

March Into Fall

By Audrey Austin

This year the Perry High School band plans to perform in the LCMEA Band Festival being held at Mentor High School Football Stadium. The Festival will take place on September 21, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. and will last until around 9:00 p.m. (Edit: the show this year was cancelled due to rain.)

It will be the first time since 2019 the LCMEA Festival will be held due to COVID and weather issues in the previous years. This festival is a good experience for parents and students to see bands throughout Lake County put on some of their best half-time performances. Each year the LCMEA Festival normally consists of nine to eleven bands. The order of performance is based on marching band sizes starting with the smallest band.

During their last festival in 2019 there were eleven bands who participated including: Lake Catholic, Fairport, Wickliffe, Eastlake North, Willoughby South, Perry, Madison, Harvey, Riverside, and Mentor. The majority of the bands that attend the festival are marching bands except for Wickliffe. Keep an eye out for Wickliffe's very talented swing band, which involves more dancing and movement in their upper bodies compared to a regular marching band.

Ever since Mentor started hosting the LCMEA festival, Perry has always made an appearance. Meadow Pike, a senior at Perry, participated in the festival her freshman year. She said, "It was like a football game but there was no football, it was just different bands." She also explained that there's constant cheering throughout the whole performance. Students really have something to look forward to based on their experiences in previous years. For students, if you know people from other schools it is a fun way to see them march their show with their school.

You get to intermingle with other bands and meet new people. Pike shared that she is “pumped up” for the performance because, “I really want to see people from other bands because I do know other people from other bands now... I also love watching bands.” Jeff Miller, a band director at Perry High School, says he’s really looking forward to seeing all the different halftime shows because “We do not compete in football with all Lake County high schools, it is always great to see the other Lake County high school band perform.” The Perry Band plans on playing their first show, “The Four Elements” at Mentor. Brad Hruska said that in preparation for the festival the band will, “[clean] up our drill and music the week of the festival.”