



PRESS RELEASE

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UPPER DARBY SCHOOL DISTRICT MARCHING ROYALS BAND CLAIM 5A PENNSYLVANIA STATE AND NATIONAL TITLES

Upper Darby School District Marching Royal Band showcases unmatched talent and teamwork in the highly competitive 5A division, capturing a National title and its 5th consecutive State title

Upper Darby, PA — The Upper Darby High School Marching Royals have once again proven their excellence, earning the title of USBands Pennsylvania State Champions in the 5A Competing Class for the fifth consecutive year. The ensemble achieved this remarkable distinction on Saturday, November 1, 2025, continuing a proud tradition of musical and visual excellence.

Performing in the 5A classification, the largest and most competitive division in the USBands circuit, the Marching Royals have shown extraordinary growth this season. The program has expanded from 95 members last year to an impressive 124 student performers, each demonstrating exceptional commitment, discipline, and passion for their craft.

This year's production, *Cleopatra: Reign and Ruin*, captivated audiences and judges alike with its emotional depth, musical artistry, and striking visual precision. At the State Championships, the ensemble earned a score of 88.3, placing first overall and narrowly edging out a competing school district. Upper Darby School District proudly went on to represent Pennsylvania at the USBands 5A National Championships on November 8th. Performing last in their division, the Marching Royals delivered a thrilling performance that earned them the National Championship with a final score of 92.0, as well as High Overall Effect and Percussion Caption Awards, marking a historical conclusion to the season.

"The Upper Darby Marching Royals' continued success is a source of immense pride for our entire district," said Desiree' Murphy Morrissey, School Board of Directors President. "Their dedication and excellence inspire us all."

"The Upper Darby Marching Royals continue to set the standard for excellence in performance, teamwork, and dedication," said Dr. Daniel P. McGarry, Superintendent of Schools. "Winning the state championship for the fifth consecutive year is an extraordinary accomplishment that reflects not only the students' talent, but also the strength of our music education program and the commitment of our staff, families, and community."

"What has been accomplished by the Upper Darby High School Marching Royals Band is truly remarkable and deserves every bit of recognition it receives", said Upper Darby High School Principal Dr. Craig Parkinson. "The Upper Darby School District has many points of pride, and our band stands out as one of the greatest. I am extremely proud of our student musicians and deeply appreciate their hard work, dedication, and passion, all of which are clearly reflected in their continued success. Mr. Ballard and his staff also deserve to be commended and celebrated for the time, support, and leadership they provide. Their commitment to excellence has made this achievement possible."

"This achievement is a testament to the incredible hard work, talent, and dedication of our students," said Doug Ballard, Director of Bands at Upper Darby High School. "The Marching Royals embody what it means to strive for excellence on and off the field. We are deeply proud of them and grateful for our community's unwavering support. We are, as always, proud to say, 'We are Royals.'"

The Upper Darby Marching Royals' ongoing achievements exemplify the spirit, dedication, and talent of our students and educators. As they continue to represent our district with distinction at the national level, we invite the community to join us in celebrating their success and supporting the performing arts programs that inspire excellence in every student. For more information about upcoming events and how to support the Marching Royals, please visit www.upperdarbysd.org.