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Local Marching Band to Represent PA in National Independence Day Parade
Coatesville's Marching Red Raiders Only PA Band Selected to March in D.C. on July 4th

COATESVILLE, PA—March 30, 2017 – The Coatesville Red Raider Marching Band has been selected to represent the State of Pennsylvania in the 2017 National Independence Day Parade in Washington, D.C. The Marching Red Raiders are the only band from Pennsylvania selected to participate in this year's parade, and this will be the school district's first appearance in the annual, nationally televised event. U.S. Rep. Pat Meehan, R-7, of Chadds Ford, nominated the Coatesville group to the Parade National Selection Committee, which selects finalists based upon video recordings, director interviews, past adjudication results, and overall quality, as well as geographical, ethnic, and stylistic diversity.

With the parade just three months away, fundraising efforts are in full swing, as the cost of travel, meals, modest lodging, and events for the approximately 100 marching band members heading to D.C. will be \$75,000. Band members and their supporters in the Coatesville Parents Music Club (CPMC) will host a spaghetti dinner Saturday, April 29, at the Coatesville High School cafeteria and a vendor fair on Sunday, April 30, from 12 noon to 4:00 PM at East Fallowfield Community Park. The CPMC has also set up a GoFundMe page at: www.gofundme.com/MarchingRedRaiders.

“I am overjoyed to be able to share such a wonderful opportunity with these students,” said Mr. Gabriel Hughes, instrumental music director for the Coatesville Area Senior High School. “It is a great honor to have been the only marching band from Pennsylvania selected to march in the parade, and it's a teacher's dream to showcase students in such a positive light and provide them with lifelong memories.”

The annual National Independence Day Parade is the highlight of "A Capitol Fourth," a three-day celebration held in our nation's capital, which for the Coatesville band will include not only marching in the Fourth of July parade down Constitution Avenue but also a guided tour of Washington, DC, including all the memorials and the Smithsonian Institute; a visit to Arlington National Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to participate in a wreath laying ceremony; and attendance at a concert on the Capitol lawn featuring the National Symphony Orchestra.

About the Coatesville Parents Music Club

The Coatesville Parents Music Club is a 501(c)(3) non-profit booster club organization. All donations are tax deductible. For more information about the Marching Red Raiders, the spaghetti dinner on April 29, the vendor fair on April 30, or to make a donation toward the band's appearance in the 2017 National Independence Day Parade, please visit www.cvillepmc.org or <https://www.gofundme.com/MarchingRedRaiders>.

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