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PHOTO BY MARGARET MOLLOY

Samohi's marching band performed at the intermission of the Samohi-Valencia game at Corsair field on Friday, October 1. The award-winning marching band under the direction of Mike Corrigan and Terry Sakow performs for home football games, and competes in many different field shows and parades in Southern California.

NEWS, SPORTS, SAMOHI, SANTA MONICA

Santa Monica High School Band Marches Strong

POSTED OCT. 15, 2010, 8:59:00 AM

Samohi Musicians Open Season a Bang

SLAV KANDYBA / MIRROR SPORTS EDITOR

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Coming off a winning season last year, Santa Monica High School marching band has added more students and is competing in a higher division. It opened the season on Oct. 9 at the West Ranch tournament at Santa Clarita Valley's Valencia High School.

"The band was successful last year and the kids spread the word on campus," said band director Michael Corrigan, who has been in the business of high schools bands for 41 years, his second at Samohi. "Happy kids bring in more kids. The numbers are going up and looks like we'll be in a higher division next year."

There are a total of six divisions based on the size of the band's roster. Samohi is Division 4A and has 130 students, 10 more than last year when it was Division 3A, Corrigan said.

The band began practicing Aug. 23, two weeks before the rest of Samohi students (with the exception of football and other fall sports), arrived on campus from summer break. Practice ran from noon to 9 p.m.



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during the two-week period. When school started, the band members enrolled in a graded band class. They also practice for three hours Thursday nights. In addition to five competitions, which take place on scheduled Saturdays through Dec. 4, the band plays at the Samohi football games.

"It's an intense few months and the kids obviously enjoy it because they numbers keep going up," Corrigan said.

Samohi senior Taylor Weary, the band's president, has played a marching band version of the French horn all four years at the school. She calls the competitions "cutthroat" and in addition to play her instrument, she's in the color guard. "It's grace and athleticism," she said. "You get a workout and it's fun."

The drum major, or the conductor, of this year's Samohi band is Scott Operman

"I tried out at the end of my sophomore year and they made me do some major routines and conducting, then put me through an interview process," he said. "These people become your family. You go into your first show and it's 'bang... We call it 'impact.'"

The prospect of competing against 16 other high school bands in front of a dozen judges doesn't phase Operman, who dreams of playing professionally at the Walt Disney Hall with the LA Philharmonic.

"Last season we went out there and won everything in our competition," he said. "This year we're going out in harder competition. Our goal is not to win but to get the most of out it."

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Oct 15, 2010 11:21 pm

Betty Green said...

'Way to go!' Looks like and sounds like everyone has a good time and is good at their assignments. Keep up the good work, Josh!

Oct 15, 2010 4:04 pm

Art said...

I am excited for the show, go SAMO! Next stop, drumline <http://www.mrmovietimes.com/movie-trailers/Drumline.html> I can see it now!

Oct 15, 2010 2:44 pm

SamoFan said...

Really great band. Just curious, how come they don't send a drum line to the away games like other schools do?

A horizontal banner for UCLA Health System. On the left is a photograph of a multi-story brick building. To the right of the photo is the text "UCLA Health System" in a blue box, followed by "It begins with U" and a "Learn more >" link.

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