

# Cavalcade of Bands Coming to Downingtown!



Downingtown Music Parents Association is proud to host the Cavalcade of Bands marching band competition at Kottmeyer Stadium at 7:15 pm on Saturday September 30, 2017. Over a dozen bands will perform to earn regional recognition for excellence in musical performance, marching precision, flag/guard performance and drumline. In addition to the competition among the high schools, Boston University and University of New Haven will execute their elite college-level performances for the enjoyment of the audience.

East and West High School bands will perform as “exhibitors”, to showcase their marching precision and musical talent, but are not permitted to compete since they are the hosts of the Cavalcade event. East and West will each perform their individual school’s 2017 half-time show.

“Every year we are able to host a Cavalcade event, we are impressed with the level of support and participation from within the extended Downingtown community. So many area residents have been a part Downingtown’s outstanding music program that the event often becomes a reunion of sorts, creating an opportunity for them to come back to enjoy a night of high-caliber music and precision marching under the stadium lights. Having TWO colleges as our guests this year is additionally exciting, and speaks to the growing reputation of the quality of events we’ve hosted in the past. We like to say it’s all the half-time shows with none of the football!” says West band director, Ed Otto. An alum of the Downingtown music program himself, Otto encourages former band members to come to support the event and perhaps meet up with old high school friends.

Definitely a family-friendly event, the concession stand will be open at 5 when the general admission gates open. Serving hamburgers/hot dogs/French fries/snacks/drinks, with proceeds designated to support the Music Parents Association (MPA). “This is one of our biggest fund raising events every year,” says MPA President, Robin McMillen. “The MPA represents the commitment of all the music parents (band/orchestra/chorus) from all three high schools (West/East/STEM).” With more and more research showing the importance of music education for cognitive and social development, it’s no wonder Downingtown continues to provide its support to the music programs. Where School Board budget cuts have unfortunately occurred, the Music Parents Association has tried to fill the financial gap as much as possible. McMillen continues, “Over the years, we have been able to purchase uniforms and risers for the choral program, repair or replace instruments for band and orchestra students, and bring in some really unique program enhancements that would not have been possible otherwise. In addition to being a community event, the Cavalcade is a key fundraiser for the MPA.”

Cavalcade of Bands will be at Kottmeyer Stadium at West High School of Saturday September 30. Gates open at 5pm. Event starts at 7:15 pm, with the combined East/West megaband performing the National Anthem before the awards ceremony. Tickets for the Cavalcade of Bands are available at the gate (\$10 for adults, \$8 for children/senior citizens/veterans. For additional information, please contact the Music Parents Association at [mpa.concessions@gmail.com](mailto:mpa.concessions@gmail.com).