



**For Immediate Release**  
November 11, 2018

**Contact:**  
E.C. Setser 843-345-1374

## Media Release

### Wando Band Places Sixth in the Nation

#### Wando High School

**Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Cynthia Ambrose**  
Deputy Superintendent of Learning  
Services

**Sharon Randall**  
Interim Executive Director of  
Secondary Learning Community

**Sherry Eppelsheimer, Ed.D.**  
Principal

**Indianapolis, IN** – The Wando Marching Band made history with its best finish ever in the Bands of America Grand National Championships this weekend, coming in sixth place at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Grand National Championships is recognized as the premier marching band event in the nation.

The field competition featured 108 bands in preliminary competition on Thursday and Friday, with 37 bands advancing to semifinals during the day on Saturday. Twelve bands advanced to the finals on Saturday evening, and Wando placed sixth among with a score of 93.95 (the Warrior's highest score ever in the Grand National Championships).

This is Wando High School's fifth appearance at Grand Nationals and Wando's fifth year making it to the finals. Only two other bands from South Carolina participated in the championships this year, Fort Mill High School and Nation Ford High School.

The title for Wando's show this year was "By a Thread," which was based on the works of Alexander Calder. Senior, Davis Ginn, was proud of his final performance as a Wando Warrior.

"We had three amazing performances, and most of the groups who placed ahead of us have won a national championship," explained Ginn. "We are very proud of our performances at Grand Nationals & proud to represent Wando and the state of South Carolina."

The Wando Band faced several obstacles this season, from Hurricane Florence taking away a week's worth of rehearsals to Tropical Storm Michael stealing a day right before this competition. Before their first regional championship win in school history, the speaker system malfunctioned, and the band had to perform with no electronics for the entire show. They persevered and won the entire competition.

The Warriors dealt with adversity again on the way to Grand Nationals. The prop truck broke down in Kentucky (5 hours from Indianapolis), so the band had to rehearse without any props, tubas, percussion, or color guard flags before the preliminary performance. Fortunately, the truck arrived shortly before the band took the field.

"We felt like there were so many things against us on Thursday," Wando Band Director Bobby Lambert said. "Then they walked onto that field for prelims, and it seemed like nothing could stop them."

The Bands of Wando are under the direction of Lambert, Lanie Radecke, and Jeff Handel. Michael Gray is the Program Coordinator for the Wando Marching Band and Sarah Price is the Colorguard Director. The Bands of Wando thank the support of its community, Charleston County School District, the Town of Mount Pleasant, its Harmony Sponsors, the Bands of Wando Foundation, parents, and alumni. For more information visit [WandoBands.org](http://WandoBands.org).

For more information on how you can support the Wando Band, please visit [www.crowdrise.com/wandoband](http://www.crowdrise.com/wandoband).

For more about the Warriors' performance, contact the Wando Marching Band's publicity representative, E.C. Setser, at (843) 345-1374 or [ecsetser@yahoo.com](mailto:ecsetser@yahoo.com).

###

#### **About the Charleston County School District**

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools that span 1,000 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 86 schools and specialized programs. With approximately 6,100 employees district-wide, CCSD is the fourth largest employer in the region.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, charter, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), and Montessori schools, and is divided into three Learning Communities. Options include specialized programs in science, engineering and mathematics; liberal arts; music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military and other public service enterprises.