

Ontario-Montclair School District

950 West D Street, Ontario, California 91762 • (909) 418-6445 FAX: (909) 459-2542

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Sonia Alvarado
Kris Brake
Sarah S. Galvez
Flora Martinez
Elvia M. Rivas

James Q. Hammond, Ed.D.
Superintendent

January 10, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Veronica Bucheli (909) 459-2500 x10320
2021-22-10



2022 Rose Parade – Dream. Believe. Achieve.

Oaks Middle School's Music Teacher Brittany Martinez performed at the annual 2022 Rose Parade – *Dream. Believe. Achieve* on January 1, 2022. Ms. Martinez was joined by a nationwide group of 270 band directors and two international band directors from Mexico. As part of their presentation, the Band group showcased their float title "Saluting America's Band Directors."

Due to the diverse group of directors, their rehearsal consisted of music teachers across the country doing their own workouts to train. In July 2021, each teacher was responsible for learning and memorizing four songs: Seventy-Six Trombones, Star and Stripes Forever, Strike Up the Band, and Sing, Sing Sing. For Brittany Martinez, that was a joy and easy! On December 29, 2021, the group met for their first rehearsal for their first band performance at Band Fest. Altogether, they had 10 hours of training. Through the hard work, determination and perseverance of the group, they performance at the 2022 Rose Parade 5.5 miles down Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena, California.

The idea of performing at the Rose Parade started when Karen Sewell's husband, a proclaimed band director from Pickerington, Ohio, passed away in 2017. Four thousand five hundred people came to attend his celebration of life ceremony since Michael Sewell's life had truly impacted their lives. Karen had begun a foundation in his honor but knew she wanted to do more, so she did.

The requirement to be a part of the collaboration included a review of the participant's teaching career, instrument experience, knowledge and successes. After seeing the information, Brittany Martinez, Band Director at Oaks Middle School, in the Ontario-Montclair School District, knew she had to apply for it. She was accepted, and that was the beginning of this wonderful journey for Ms. Martinez.

"It is exciting to see our teachers' dedication to pursuing their passion, while being a positive role model who inspires and motivates our OMSD students to keep exploring new opportunities and to continue to learn. Great things are happening within OMSD and we commend the hard work of our fantastic school leaders." stated Oaks Middle School Principal, Nick Zajicek.

Events such as the Rose Parade not only provide an opportunity to showcase the beauty of floral floats, it also brings talented individuals together while highlighting rich history, and brings people together from around the nation to celebrate the new year!

###

"Our Community, Our Children, Our Commitment, Our Future"