

Band Festival, Oct. 18, 7 p.m., Pulaski Day Parade, Philadelphia, Oct. 5, and the Thanksgiving Day Parade in Philadelphia.

Hammonton High School. Hammonton, N.J. The Razzle-Dazzle Band. The Blue Devils marching unit under director Anthony Guerere drips with honors and accomplishments. It went to San Diego last year for the Holiday Bowl and has played at the Orange Bowl game in Miami and the Kentucky Derby in Louisville, Ky., and for President Reagan during his 1984 campaign. The band has been actively competing in the Tournament of Bands circuit since 1972 and has won seven championships.

Hammonton High School has only 800 students, and yet its band attracts about 100 participants: 60 musicians and 40 in the band front. Hammonton has all three magic ingredients to make a great band: an extraordinary director, enthusiastic parents and a supportive school district.

The field show at Hammonton is, as Guerere describes it, "a whole production." The band wears new uniforms based on that of *Star Trek's* Captain Kirk. The show takes a space theme, playing everything from the music of *Star Trek* to Gustaf Holst's *The Planets Suite* to the "Krypton Theme" from *Superman*. And, oh yes, there are a synthesizer and a meteor shower.

Hammonton High School, North Liberty Street (off Route 54), Hammonton, N.J., 609-561-7000. Home games: Oct. 18, Wildwood, noon; Nov. 1, Oakcrest, 1:30 p.m.; Nov. 8, Lower Cape May, 11 a.m.; Nov. 27, St. Joseph's, 10:30 a.m. Other: Hosts Tournament of Bands Competition, Oct. 5, 2 p.m. (small admission).

Neshaminy High School. Langhorne. The Traveling Band. This huge band (163 musicians, 72-member band front) is one of the most admired in the region, and yet it does not compete. Ron Daggett, band director since 1972, says simply that competition does not suit Neshaminy's field show. "We go for the reac-

tion. We want the audience to stand up. Great bands like to show off." Neshaminy wants the audience to roar, not the judges, and enjoys doing such things as planting a musical soloist in the audience, and sending off fireworks, and building elaborate sets that have movable parts and spout off steam.

The enthusiastic marching unit does receive its own form of prize: a band trip every other year. Big deal, you think, a band trip. Wait — this band goes to such places as Portugal, Ireland, Mexico and Hawaii. One Ireland trip forced the band to turn down a prestigious Cotton Bowl invitation. But then it did get to win two European titles and to perform at the Lord Mayor's Ball in Dublin.

The Neshaminy band adds to its halftime show at every football game. This is fun for the band and fun for the audience. "Circus" is this year's theme, and the music includes "Send in the Clowns," "The Tennessee Waltz," "Old Man River" and "Over the Rainbow." This weekend the band will add to its routine a steamboat puffing smoke, and by the last game of the season it will be staging a full three-ring circus with innumerable surprises that only a spoiler would reveal this early in the season.

Neshaminy High School, 2001 Old Lincoln Highway, Langhorne, 752-6300. Home games: Thursday, North Penn, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 25, Truman, 1:30 p.m.; Oct. 31, William Tennant, 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 14, Pennsbury, 7:30 p.m. Other: Neshaminy hosts chapter finals of Tournament of Bands and will put on an exhibition, Nov. 8 and 9, 9 a.m. into the evening both days (small admission).

North Penn High School. Lansdale. The Champion Band. Like the Dallas Cowboys, the North Penn Marching Knights are loved and hated. And like a perennial contender, this band tries and tries, and works and works.

Witness: The North Penn School District is out on strike. It may be mid-October before

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