

Marcus band happy with performance most of all

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For those who are counting, it's now three consecutive state championships for the Marcus High School band.

But the band isn't among those who are counting.

Instead, the band members are enjoying the feeling of pride that comes with a performance as strong as the one they had Tuesday night at the Class 5A State Marching Band Contest in San Antonio.

It just happens that that performance was enough to wow the judges and earn Marcus a state championship one more time.

"We're obviously beyond humbled to win state," said band director Amanda Drinkwater, who guided Marcus to state championships in 2006 and 2008. "But we try to center our response to the performance and not the results. No matter what the outcome, we were happy with our performance, and the judges' response was just icing on the cake."

The judges' responses showed how impressed they were. Marcus scored six points for their performance. Hurst L.D. Bell placed second with 13, and Duncanville placed third with 25.

Marcus' field program was entitled "Illuminairies," which portrayed illuminations in the figurative and literal sense of the word. The show featured music from such luminaries as Bach, Mozart, and Strauss as well as the application of LED lights on various performers. The visual program featured 10 large chandeliers that lit up two-thirds the way through the program.

Marcus performed in the preliminary round Tuesday morning and reached the finals Tuesday night.

Drinkwater said the judges' comments showed their appreciation for Marcus' musical performance, marching skills and color guard routine.

"We had an excellent performance," said senior drum major Josh Dover. "We felt really good about that performance and what we had worked for."

"Our music was really strong," said senior drum major Connor Brem. "She (Drinkwater) chose a lot of great music that we had to live up to. We also made a big push in visual because that had been a weakness for us."

Band members agree that Tuesday night's finals performance was a special one for Marcus.

"There is such emotion in our music," said Kevin Jones, also a senior drum major. "Our band has always been known for its ability to play. The quality of music that came through was just unbelievable."

So too has been the recognition the band has received at school and around town. Students awaited the band's return Wednesday morning to congratulate them. Jones said even people outside of the school have kept up with the band.

"I went to apply for a job the other day, and I had on my Marcus band shirt," Jones said. "Someone saw that and asked how we did at state. So that was nice."

While the band competitions are over, Drinkwater and her group will turn their attention holiday performances as well as preparation for individual competitions.

But first, Drinkwater said the band will be following the Marcus football team, which begins its playoff run next weekend.