

MARY IMMACULATE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Highsteppers drill team earns honors

SUBMITTED STORY

The Highstepper officers of Mary Immaculate Catholic School's drill team are deep into practices for their school's football game performances, while coach Liz Mahaffey and choreographer Brittany Claypool determine whether the girls will perform during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, a Capital One Bowl at Disney World, or an SMU football game.

The invitation for the drill team officers to perform at their choice of one of these events was issued as part of winning the Grand Champion Officers award during competition at the 2012 American Dance Drill Officer Camp. The girls from Mary Immaculate competed against one other middle school and 54 high schools, including local schools Ursuline Academy and Hebron High School.

In addition to the Grand Champion Officers title, the Mary Immaculate Highstepper officers were awarded three other team awards during this competition: Home Routine Award for their opening night performance; All American Team of the Day for their excellent discipline, performance and personal enthusiasm; and Super Sweepstakes, which is awarded to those teams receiving a Division I (Superior Rating) in three of the five areas of competition.

Individual awards were also abundant for the Highstepper officers. Grace Sakalas was awarded Outstanding Performer for her dance technique, attitude, leadership and overall excellence while Mia White was honored for Company High Kick. For their skills, attitude, learning ability and enthusiasm, Highsteppers Kimberly Juarez, Maggie Baum and Allyson Pemberton were recognized for Outstanding Achievement in Marching, while Mia White and Grace Sakalas were recognized for Outstanding Achievement in Dance.

The team anticipates a performance during the Nov. 10 SMU football team as their Grand Champion Officers prize selection, due to extensive travel costs involved for the other two opportunities.

Rosemary Martinez is the Director of Development and Communications at Mary Immaculate Catholic School.



Photos submitted by MARY IMMACULATE SCHOOL

The Highsteppers follow their officers' lead at a recent St. Ann Carnival in Coppell.



The Highstepper officers strike a pose during their award winning performance at the 2012 American Dance Drill Officer Camp.



Coach Liz Mahaffey stands with the officers.



Highstepper Mia White and Highstepper officer Madeline Bookout smile big in their formal uniforms.