“Band, ATTENTION!”

“LAKEVIEW!”

In one moment and one movement, things change. Feet snap together, the chin snaps up and the instrument snaps to the ready position. SNAP! READY!

Ready. The band waits for their turn to take the field. The stillness of the band is quite moving to all that witness it. How long have they been standing motionless? 5 minutes? I think it’s been longer than that… I can’t wait to see them perform. I CAN’T WAIT! Because I know what is coming. I saw it in their eyes, I heard it in their sound as they warmed up. They are ready. It has to have been more than 5 minutes. You can sense it in the audience; that they are aware that something special is about to happen. Ready.

It is times like this that make all of the hard work worth it. A simple whistle command to call the band to attention, and everything snaps into place. It looks quite simple to those watching, but it was the building of the attention that led to this point.

“FEET!”

“TOGETHER!”

Heels and toes come together and bear the burden of a ready musician. The feet are pointing forward, in line. They are representing more than the normal foot functions; they are representing order and uniformity. Their feet point forward and keep the band on a straight and steady course. Their feet are strong, but graceful and precise. They help them stay in line.

“SHOULDERS!”

“UP-BACK-DOWN!”
The shoulders move up toward the head to provide tension, then back to show proper placement, and then down to release the tension. The shoulders are now at attention position. They are presenting the determination of their owners. There is a goal to the owner of those shoulders, and to achieve the goal, the owner will have to go through the tension of countless hours of rehearsal and practice. They will have to know the basics inside and out and know their proper placement not only in concerns with their spots on the field, but in the music as well. Finally, they will have to release the tension to effectively provide the audience with a truly artistic performance, which of course, is the main goal.

“CHINS!”

“UP!”

Chins are slightly above parallel, which corresponds to their attitude. They are not satisfied with parallel; they are not satisfied with the norm. It is unacceptable to be good. The Lakeview Band is better than that.

“MARBLE”

“SQUEEZE!”

Never mind that one.

“EYES!”

“WITH PRIDE!”

It has come to this. The Lakeview Band motto is “A Tradition of Excellence.” There is a lot at stake here. The past is our pleasure and burden to bear. The Lakeview Bands of the past have put in extraordinary amounts of work and have seen the fruits of their labors. The alumni are very proud and expect; no DEMAND that the tradition be carried on. The current musicians
know this and use it to push themselves to higher levels, hoping that their beloved alumni and community will be pleased by what they experience.

“LAKEVIEW!”

The vocal response to the attention command, and yet so much more. Lakeview: the home of the Bulldogs; the environment that houses the Lakeview Band; a school district; yet also to some, a way of living. Things at Lakeview are a little different than other schools. A little different, and a little better. They don’t flaunt it, because they have class, but they’re not afraid to remind others when needed, either. They don’t hide it, because they have pride.

When someone needs to visit the band room, they leave the office, and turn left down the “respect” hallway.

The environment that surrounds the band is unique, and is definitely to be credited for a part of the band’s success. It is through the support and value that Lakeview gives, that promotes a quarter of it’s student enrollment to the band.

Six whistles and the music begins. Six whistles, and they show the hard work and determination; what it takes to be a Bulldog. Six whistles and the magic is let loose.

They hold the audience in their grasps, and don’t let go until the call to parade rest.

“HEY BAND!”

“HEY WHAT?”

“HEY BAND!”

“HEY WHAT?”

“What’s Your Name?”

“LAKEVIEW!”

“And What’s Your Game?”
“TO MAKE YOU!”

“MAKE ME WHAT?”

“STAND UP! BULLDOGS!!”

Mission accomplished.