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Norwood High School Winter Guard takes first

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NORWOOD - After taking last year off due in part to budget cuts, the Norwood High School Winter Guard has successfully returned to competition.

Under the direction of NHS alumnae Grace Allendorf and Allison MacLeay, the 21-member winter guard is competing in the New England Scholastic Band Association (NESBA) Winter Color Guard 2008 season.

The Winter Guard is performing an original routine entitled "Feeling Good," featuring the classic song as covered by Muse. The group uses dance, flags, and sabers in their performance. Norwood director of fine arts Catherine Connor-Moen says, "The combination of athleticism and grace is so impressive, then add in the equipment work. It is a great testament to how hard these girls have worked."

Winter Color Guard squads are judged on the basis of equipment, movement, ensemble and general effect. In their first performance at Reading, they achieved first place in their class. At their second performance in Wrentham, they also achieved first place in their class, receiving exceptional scores in equipment and movement. NHS instrumental music director Steven Conant remarked, "I am really impressed with the girl's performance. This activity is a difficult technique to master, and the girls are well on their way towards excellence. I look forward to their continuous growth throughout the season."

Future competitions include March 22 at Peabody, March 29 at Everett, and the finals on April 6 at Salem. Details are available on the NESBA (www.nesba.org/schedule.htm) and PMA (www.norwoodpma.org) Web sites.

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