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MAROON BAND RECEIVES HIGH RATINGS AT STATE MARCHING BAND FESTIVAL

CHOCTAW, Miss. – The Choctaw Central High School Maroon Band received high ratings at the MHSAA Region III State Marching Band Festival in Meridian, Miss., on Saturday, October 10, 2009. The band received a Superior rating in the Color Guard category and Excellent ratings in the Drum Major, Percussion, and Band categories.

The Maroon Band has consistently received high ratings at state and local competitions for the past several years.

In addition to their outstanding performance at Meridian, the band also received Superior ratings in the Drum Major, Color Guard, and Percussion categories and an Excellent rating in the Band category at the Covich Marching Festival in Gallman, Miss., on Saturday, October 3, 2009. The color guard also received the Best in Class rating.

The next competition will be on Saturday, October 17 at the Chunky River Small Band Festival in Union, Miss. A week later, on Saturday, October 24, the band will compete at the State Marching Band Championships at Co-Lin Community College in Wesson, Miss. The band will close out the month of October with a competition at the West Alabama Marching Festival in Gordo, Ala., on Saturday, October 31. The Maroon Band asks that family members, friends, and community members show their support by coming to the competitions.

The Choctaw Central High School Maroon Band is under the leadership of Band Director Elter Wilson. The Maroon Band is one of only two all-Native American band programs east of the Mississippi River.

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The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, under the esteemed leadership of Miko Beasley Denson, has an enrolled membership of almost 10,000 and is the only federally recognized tribe

in the State of Mississippi. Headquartered in the Pearl River community, near Philadelphia, Mississippi, the Tribe has emerged as a leader in economic development. The Tribe provides a range of governmental services for its members including schools, a hospital, medical clinics, police and fire protection, courts, an elderly center, among many others.