

It was like a homecoming! SEIBA (South East Iowa Bandmasters Association) recently held its first district wide honor band for 1st & 2nd year players at Washington High School. In the '80s-'90s, Washington was home to the SEIBA District Honor Band for Jr. High (JH) & High School (HS). Saturday, SEIBA came back to Washington to celebrate this inaugural event by featuring one of Washington's own as a guest clinician & soloist with the band. Gary McCurdy (aka The Tubadour) used to host the JH & HS event as a director, and was not only the featured soloist, but wrote an arrangement of "When the Saints Go Marching in" for the band and wrote another arrangement especially for the Tubas and Euphoniums to play. In addition, Mr. McCurdy gave the audience two solo performances from his Tubadour performance library which included "The Battle of Jericho" & "What a Wonderful World". Also coming home was the director of the honor band, Mrs. Dorothy Jacobi, who team teaches at Center Point-Urbana with her husband Dan Jacobi. Mrs. Jacobi taught for 9 years in the Solon CSD which is part of the SEIBA district.



Five Washington 6th graders were selected to this honor band including: Cooper (Tuba); Anna V (Trumpet); Chloe M (Flute); Hunter R (Clarinet); & Cameron W (percussion). Washington band directors Don Hughes & Craig McClenahan found themselves in a familiar place once again as the event marked the 3rd major music event hosted by WCSD this school year. Washington also hosted All-State tryouts in the fall and Solo/Ensemble Contest March 28th. Washington director, McClenahan commented, "Directors, students, and parents from visiting schools have been complimenting us at all 3 events on our fine facilities at the high school. Without the new facilities, we would not be hosting these events."