

Salem High School's Marching Band placed first in the State Scholastic Finals on Saturday; an award Director Bonnie Harmon was very much looking forward to in her 25th season at the school.

The competition is based on school size and band size. The first place finish means Salem will perform at Lucas Oil Stadium next Saturday in exhibition at the Open Class State Finals.

Harmon said 11 bands competed for the title of State Champion in Scholastic Class B. "Our show is called 'It's About Time' and it has a 'steampunk' theme," said Harmon. "Steampunk is kind of a cross between Victorian and industrial revolution things."

Harmon said the first place at state is just the icing on the cake to a great season.

"The band has placed first at several competitions and captured many caption awards - like best music, best visual (marching) and best Percussion and Color Guard," she said. "We're very proud of them."

Prior to Saturday's competition, Harmon said the band was looking forward to making the show the very best it could be - and to placing their very best in the class and that's just what they did.

"Our Drum Major is senior Wade LaHue," she said. "He's been a really good leader for the band - both on and off the field."

This year's band has five seniors: Wade LaHue, Alex Cannello, Kyle Medlock, Mykala Amos and Josh Worrall.

"They will all be missed when they graduate," said Harmon.

The staff for this year's show is: Richard Trueblood on show design and color guard, Jean Downen on winds, Blair Winslow on percussion, and alumni and former drum major Amanda Bills has been the "operations manager" this year.

"They are all great people to work with and all of them love the band and the kids in the band - we're so lucky to have them," said Harmon.

"This has been a really fun year and we've enjoyed making our performances better each week."

She said the band and staff is thankful for the fabulous Salem Band Parents for working so hard to support the kids financially.

"They make so much possible for the band," said Harmon. "We're lucky to have an administration that is truly caring about our band and about the arts in general - that is a wonderful luxury. Dr. Reed, our superintendent, Mr. Smith, our high school principal, and Mr. Oppel, our middle school principal - they all support us in so many ways."