

# We Want Our Parade Too

Staff Editorial by Troy Dawes

A big parade led by fire trucks and police goes through town and in front of the school as the growing crowd awaits, cheering wildly with signs and banners. Posters dug into the ground are seen on the way out of town with Good Luck signs to each individual player. Record boards show the best in each event in the history of the school in the lunchroom. Oversized photos don the walls showing past teams that made it State.

However, where is the parade for the other activities that make it to State? Journalism has sent someone to State every year but one since 2004. For many years we have had 12, 13, and even 14 students at State. We've had numerous State Champions as well. Until last year, we were the only activity that had a State trophy, Runner Up in 2014.

After last year's phenomenal girls basketball season, the girls received three parades. They now have a banner in the gym for being Runner Up and an entire trophy case dedicated to their season. Where is the journalism banner for the same feat? Where is the journalism trophy case? Where is our oversized picture on the wall? Where is the list of State Qualifiers?

There are claps and cheers when a quarterback gets a touchdown, but a near perfect play production gets all but that one long clapping frenzy and it's over.

What about One Act that made it to State a few years ago or the State Speech qualifiers? Where is their recognition on the wall?

What about the students who make it to All State Music? They are chosen out of 5000 applicants, and there is nothing anywhere to show their vocal or instrumental prowess.

Why are sports recognized so much while drama, speech, music, and journalism seems to be hidden in the back of the trophy cabinet, if they are even in the trophy case, like something they're not proud to show off.

We sit back and enjoy our quiet competence but something eats away at us and eventually we finally open the curtains to see that we are underrepresented. We are underappreciated.

We watch as wins are talked about for days but other accomplishments get a little announcement over the school PA. A nice congratulations. Where is our hype?

Why is that? Are you too cool for us? Do you think that just anybody can be great at something without having it in their heart to want to be great.

Yes, we work hard in ways you don't see. No, we don't condition for weeks at a time and sweat until drops roll off our forehead, but we manage deadlines like soldiers and work until odd hours of the night just to make

something well done.

Maybe it's not as physically exhausting, but we work arduous hours to make sure the yearbook is something that can be purchased and kept as a treasure to behold. We make sure our writing is stellar and our photos are sharp, clear, and fascinating.

Drama works for hours at a time memorizing lines that will mean nothing after the final performance. Actors put energy they don't have into characters that they embody. They are able to put on a cover and express emotions they aren't feeling while saying multiple paragraphs they have memorized.

Arts like these events are usually not recognized, and it could be for different reasons. Maybe it's because we aren't televised at big levels. There aren't huge audiences who pay to watch us write our copy or design our pages.

Maybe it's a whole societal problem that shows up in a more minor way. Notice that the TV broadcast has a third of the program devoted to sports. Our whole society has said that sports matters more.

We would just like to have some recognition that even in some small way feels equal. Isn't that what school should be about? A promotion of every student who does a good job? We just want to be noticed, appreciated, and in some way, we want our parade too.