



# Harlingen CISD

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## **Harlingen CISD Middle School Bands Place 1<sup>st</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> in the State**

Coakley Middle School band has won the top spot in the state of Texas for the second time in a row while Memorial Middle School band places 12<sup>th</sup> in the state in the biannual Texas Music Educator's Association Honor Band contest recently.

History is repeating itself with this year's results as both Coakley and Memorial placed in the same spots in the 2004 TMEA competition.

"We are on cloud nine and half," said Coakley Middle school band director, Joseph Figarelli, while explaining that his band won as defending champs because they were required to sit out of the 2006 competition according to the rules.

Both middle school directors challenged their students with high school level competition music.

"The Coakley band was the only middle school band in the state to play a level 5 piece for the competition," said Figarelli. "We knew we had to step it up a level to win first place again."

"We knew we had a special group of hardworking extraordinary kids starting in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade," said Memorial Middle School director James Keltner. "Over 1,000 Middle Schools in the state of Texas and to place 12 is quite an honor."

The two bands have been in competition since the regional and area contests where Coakley Middle School placed first and Memorial Middle placed second in both contests.

Both Keltner and Figarelli expressed much pride in the level of effort their band students displayed and appreciate the support of the HCISD Board, administration, parents and community.

*For further information contact Allen Aleshire, Director of Public Information/KHGN TV or Chad Bender, Communication Specialist at 430-9531.*