I want to extend heartfelt congratulations to our New London Varsity Winter Guard, who are newly crowned Ohio Indoor Performance Association state champions!

Our varsity team secured the state championship earlier this month, fending off 12 other state-caliber teams, while our Junior Guard earned a silver medal for their outstanding performance.

Additional congratulations go out to our indoor percussion group, who also competed at OIPA and finished with their own State Championship title. This impressive group of young musicians brought their A-game and showcased their abilities in a highly competitive field.

Winning at OIPA is no small feat, as the association is home to approximately 45 color guard units and 20 percussion units. It takes true skill and commitment to succeed, and our students competed admirably.

All of our talented students positively represented our community and our district with their hard work, dedication and creative expression, and I am so proud to recognize their achievements. I'd also like to acknowledge band instructor Lisa Carbone and her staff for the creative themes they put together for these competitions to help New London stand out from the crowd.

After the competition, our champions were transported back into town in style by New London fire trucks, a fitting way to honor and acknowledge their achievements. I'm sure they'll take time this week during spring break to celebrate their wins. They've certainly earned it.

For the rest of our New London students, I hope spring break will offer opportunities to rest, relax, and enjoy time with friends and family. After we return to the classroom, there will only be a few weeks left of the school year. It's hard to believe that another year has almost come and gone, but as I look back on our many achievements over these past months, I'm humbled by all we have achieved together.

I look forward to finishing the year on a high note and am excited to see what our students will continue to accomplish in these final weeks ahead.

Brad Romano, Superintendent New London Local Schools