



## St. Bernard High School Viking Band Rocks to Big Win for the School!

### **St. Bernard's music video honored by DoSomething.org and the VH1 Save the Music Foundation's 'Battle of the Bands' campaign**

**Playa del Rey, CA (May 5, 2010)** The results are in and it's official, the St. Bernard High School (SBHS) 'Viking Band' from Playa del Rey, CA won second place in a national 'Battle of the Bands' video contest sponsored by VH-1's 'Save The Music' Foundation and DoSomething.org. The Viking Band students were among 6,000 teens nationwide to submit videos in the fight to keep music education in schools and about the importance of music in their lives. The Viking Band entry, "*I'll Try*" was chosen as one of the top five prize winners, earning \$1000 and several guitars for the school's music program.

According to the song's writer Chad Watson, "The song is about our individual struggles in life" says the graduating senior, "and how we need to try hard despite the obstacles that get in our way." The Viking Band is lead by saxophonist and educator Joel Bowers, who has been directing the small school ensemble for three years. "In March, I saw the public service announcement featuring Nick Jonas on VH-1 and knew right away that this was a great opportunity for the band to perform Chad's tune, with its positive message, and at the same time draw some attention to our own struggling music department."

Peter Sobat, SBHS' film and video instructor and an entertainment industry professional, developed the visual idea for the music video. In collaboration with the Viking Choir's director McCain Treat, an international recording vocalist, Bowers, The Viking Band and The Viking News Network (VNN) team of students, the music video was filmed, edited and created in the school's digital media production studio.

Also featured in the *I'll Try* music video are soloist Anthony Fortes Membrila, senior; Freshman guitarist Vince Villafan; senior bassist Tojo Logo; junior drummer Marcus Davis;



senior keyboardist Kameron Banks; junior flutist Patrick Lynch; senior keyboardist Bryce Metcalf, keyboards; the chorus was made up of member from the Viking Choir and VNN News Team. To view the winning video visit the school's website and click on the link [www.stbernardhs.com](http://www.stbernardhs.com).

A panel of expert judges included representatives from VH1, EMI Music, CBS Radio, and *Rolling Stone* magazine. Each original entry was evaluated the bands based on creativity, strength of argument, and overall participation to determine the winners. According to the VH1 Save the Music Foundation, research studies show that children who study music and the arts have higher grades, score better on standardized tests, have better attendance records and are more active in community affairs than other students.

Visit [www.dosomething.org/bands](http://www.dosomething.org/bands) to see all of the Battle of the Bands videos, including the winners.

**About St. Bernard High School:** St. Bernard High School [www.stbernardhs.com](http://www.stbernardhs.com), is co-educational, 9-12 high school, owned and operated by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and the Western Catholic Educational Association (WCEA). All Advanced Placement courses are fully certified by the College Board. The curriculum is certified college-preparatory as defined by the University of California A-G standards. Click for the [School Profile](#).

**About DoSomething.org:** DoSomething.org is one of the largest organizations in the US that helps young people rock causes they care about. A driving force in creating a culture of volunteerism, DoSomething.org is on track to activate two million young people in 2011.

**About The Vh1 Save the Music Foundation:** The VH1 Save The Music Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to restoring instrumental music education programs in America's public schools, and raising awareness about the importance of music as part of each child's complete education.

For more information, contact Dr. Beth Polito, Vice Principal, St. Bernard High School [www.stbernardhs.com](http://www.stbernardhs.com), 310-823-4651 ext. 112.

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