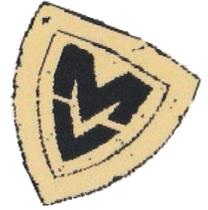




# Musical Notes



Mt. Vernon Music Boosters

April 2016

- ◇ **Friday:** ISSMA contest for 8th-grade band, 7:55 p.m.
- ◇ **April 12 & 14:** Color guard auditions, 4-6 p.m.
- ◇ **April 14:** ISSMA preview concert for high-school band, 7 p.m.
- ◇ **April 15:** Next payment due for NYC trip
- ◇ **April 18:** Music booster meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◇ **April 22 or 23:** ISSMA contest for high-school band, time TBA
- ◇ **April 26:** Letter jacket ordering, 8 a.m. (details to come)
- ◇ **May 2:** Mandatory marching band parent meeting, 7 p.m.

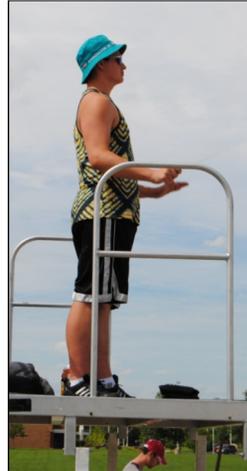
## Schedule set for drum major auditions

When he first joined the Band of Marauders, Evan Schacherer looked up to the drum major not only as a leader, but as a friend. "I wanted to be that same person to the 8th graders coming in," he explained for his reason to become drum major two years ago.

Drum major candidates for the 2016 season are already working on an essay they need to turn in **Wednesday**. They must explain why they want to be drum major, what it means to be a leader, and what they would do differently to make the band experience more successful.

They also need to get recommendations from three teachers, schedule a 10-minute interview with Assistant Principal Roach, and schedule a 10-minute meeting with Mr. Ellinger.

And at each weekly meeting, the candidates will discuss leadership topics, the responsibilities and logistics being drum



Senior Evan Schacherer served as drum major for two years.

major, and how to conduct. All their work will conclude **April 29** with an interview and audition before a panel of judges.

The candidates are competing for three positions: senior drum major, junior drum major, and field marshal. Each position is good for just one school year. The current junior drum major and field marshal, if they want to continue in those roles in the fall, have to audition again.

Trying out again is "more to be fair than anything else," Mr. Ellinger explained. "Those with experience typically get the position again, but it is not automatic."

Successful candidates will be sent to a drum major-specific workshop at the Music for All Summer Symposium at Ball State University (see next page).

"There are so many memories made there along with the best of staff," Evan recalled of the workshops he attended.

## Boosters to meet to elect new officers

Officer candidates were announced at last month's Music Boosters meeting. At this month's meeting **April 18**, the boosters will vote to approve the following executive officers:

- President: Beth Smith
- Vice President: Regina Osborne
- Treasurer: Erin Flick
- Assistant Treasurers: Amanda Fronek (band) and Jody Barton (choir)
- Co-Secretaries: Kellie McGowen and Lynn Schreiner

Also, the following people will be confirmed in various roles:

- Hospitality Coordinator: Kyra Davis
- Volunteer Coordinator: Regina Osborne
- Equipment Co-Coordinators: Bob Williams and Darci Pellom

- Communication Coordinator: Susan Dunn
- Spirit/Social Coordinator: Patti Williams
- Historian/Photographer: Amy McCleery
- NYC Trip Point Person: Dana Drew
- Scrip Coordinator: Cindy Sanders
- Box Tops Co-Coordinators: Kathy Nyikos and Kellie McGowen
- Fund-raiser Coordinators: Jim Smith (band) and Jody Barton (choir)

The Music Boosters still need people to serve as Lucas Oil Stadium (LOS) Coordinator and Sponsorship Coordinator for the band. LOS is one of the band's "Fair Share" fund-raisers that helps raise money for individual student band accounts. LOS is in addition to the new fund-raiser at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

## Preparations under way for annual ISSMA concert band competitions

Spring means warmer weather, flowers blooming, and bands preparing to compete in concert competitions.

The 8th-grade band will leave for Greenfield Central Junior High School after school **Friday** for its ISSMA competition. The band is slated to perform at 7:55 p.m.

The high-school band will compete on either April 22 or 23 at Hamilton Southeastern High School. Mr. Ellinger is awaiting official notification of time.

Like the 8th-grade band, the high-school band will present a preview

concert for family and friends. The concert also has a second purpose: In the audience will be three band directors from other high schools who will provide feedback on what to improve. Afterward, each clinician will spend 15 to 20 minutes working with the band.

"It's a great way for the students to receive input from another music professional and for me to hear the band from the audience," Mr. Ellinger explained.

The preview concert will be at 7 p.m. **Thursday, April 14**, in the auditorium.



**Briefs**

**Summer instrument academies offered at IU**

Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music is offering instrument-specific [summer academies](#) for students in grades 7 through 12. These academies enable students to immerse themselves in their chosen discipline for several days or weeks. Specific academies and workshops are available for strings, percussion, piano, saxophone, ballet, and even tango. A college audition preparatory workshop is also offered.

**Ball State to host annual Music for All summer camp**

Drum majors aren't the only people to receive specialized training at this camp. The [Music for All Summer Symposium](#), presented by Yamaha and run by Bands of America, provides experiences for anyone in marching band, concert band, orchestra, jazz band, color guard, percussion, and even middle-school band. Ball State University will host this 40-year-old tradition June 27-July 2.

**Placement auditions coming up for concert bands**

Mr. Ellinger recently told the Music Boosters that 108 students are now enrolled in concert band for the 2016-17 school year. Because his "magic number" of 110 is nearly reached, he's going ahead with his plan to create two separate concert bands.

He will hold placement auditions in May and will furnish details soon. "Students will have a musical excerpt and some form of scale/technical exercise to complete," he said.

The annual auditions will be optional, however. "Students choosing not to audition will be placed based on my opinion of their needs," Mr. Ellinger explained. "This means [in future years] that some students choosing not to audition may stay in the top band or lower band."

The bands will meet during 1st and 2nd blocks. During marching season, those who aren't in marching band but want to play in the fall (no matter which concert band they're placed in) will meet during 2nd block.



**ICYMI (in case you missed it):** The Mt. Vernon varsity winter guard placed 6th in the state finals for Class A. This is the second year the team has competed in the Indiana High School Color Guard Association's state finals; last year, the guard placed 11th. The finals were held March 12 at Center Grove High School in Greenwood. *GOOD JOB MARAUDERS!*

**Color guard auditions scheduled for fall season**

Mt. Vernon's two color guard teams have scheduled auditions for the fall season on **April 12 and 14** from 4-6 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. Enter through Door 7.

Students who are now in 5th through 11th grades can audition. No prior experience is necessary. Auditioning students should bring with them a water bottle, athletic clothing, a good attitude, and a friend.

If you have any questions about the color guard, please see Mr. Ellinger or contact [Thomas Thawley](#), color guard director.

**Heading to college? Consider these marching bands**

Last month's newsletter promoted the marching bands at Indiana, Purdue, and Ball State universities. Here are four other in-state university bands that seniors can consider joining.

**Notre Dame's marching band**

Tickets to see Fighting Irish football can be hard to come by, but being in the Band of the Fighting Irish gives you free access to the games. Students

attending Notre Dame or nearby St. Mary's or Holy Cross colleges can join this band.



Auditions happen right before band camp in August. If you want to march under the watchful gaze of Touchdown Jesus, visit this [info page](#).

**Butler's marching band (BUMB)**

Auditions aren't required to play a wind instrument in the BUMB. How-

ever, percussionists go through placement auditions in the first few days of rehearsals. Band members fulfill their PWB core requirement and receive a \$100 tuition reduction. Visit the band's [info page](#) for details.

**ISU's Marching Sycamores**

The 100+-member Marching Sycamores band is one of the most visible student



organizations on the Indiana State University campus. Joining is easy; just fill out the form [here](#), and register for the MU109 class.

**Marian's Marching Knights**

At this small university not far from Butler, you can audition for a marching band scholarship, no matter what your major is. You can find more information [here](#).

