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This issue, however, is exclusive for middle-school band parents. You might have many questions; this newsletter will attempt to answer some of them.

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Future newsletters will include articles for both middle-school (particularly 8th grade) and high-school bands. The newsletters will also be emailed to 8th-grade families through My Music Office and contain hot links; simply click them to get to the additional information. Parents of 6th- and 7th-grade band students will receive this newsletter through regular “mail. If you need to refer to an earlier issue, click a hot link, or glance through last year’s newsletters, you can find the newsletter archive at mvhsmusic.org/bandnewsletter.

Football field gets artificial turf

This photo shows the 8th-grade band on the high school’s brand new football field. Earlier this year, the school board authorized the installation of artificial turf in the football stadium. The expected cost of the installation was $615,000.

That expensive obligation was met completely with outside investments and donations. MVHS Athletic Director Brandon Ecker said in an email back in June that multiple sources provided funding. “Obviously, MS Athletics, HS Athletics, and Band are all a part of that, but outside donations/sponsorships have also been a part,” he said. The Music Boosters will be paying $5,000 annually for the next 10 years to help cover costs for the new turf.

“For the band, this [new turf] will make practices and performances much less stressful,” said Mr. Ellinger. “Up until now, performing and practicing on our football field was the only time our students marched on grass. While it may not seem like a big difference to someone who has not experienced the difference, performing on grass is far more challenging. It will be wonderful to perform in a stadium that will be similar to our competition surfaces.”

The band’s first halftime show is Aug. 18, during the MV vs. Hamilton Heights football game. Come and watch the band perform!

Middle-school band parents can join Boosters

The Mt. Vernon Music Boosters provide support to Mr. Ellinger by helping raise money for the band department and its students. The Boosters also help coordinate activities between parents and the bands.

Booster President Kyra Davis encourages all band parents to join the Boosters, including those of middle-school band students. “I believe that when parents get involved, their children become more invested in an activity,” she said. “Band Boosters is no exception.” And she would know: her son, Nate, is a junior saxophone player; her daughter, Lilli, is a 7th-grader in the color guard.

Middle-school band parents can help in various ways. The Boosters have many areas for volunteers to help, such as spirit, sponsorship, and props. 8th-grade parents can expect general emails seeking help.

“I believe the earlier parents get involved with the Music Boosters, the better our organization can grow and the more diversity we have from the community,” said Mr. Ellinger. “Everyone has connections, no matter the size, with businesses in our district. Adding these connections and increasing the number of parents that help out our cause makes the student’s experience more enjoyable. It is all for them!”

You can find a list of the current Booster officers on the band department’s website at mvhsmusic.org (select Officers from the Boosters menu). Email addresses are provided on this site, so you can communicate with the officers with any questions.

The next Music Boosters meeting is at 7 p.m., Monday, Sept. 11, in the music theory classroom across the hall from the band room. The Boosters usually meet on the first Monday of the month, but will adjust meeting dates as needed to accommodate holidays and school breaks.

Mt. Vernon Music Boosters Ltd. is a 501(c) public charity, which means that contributions to it are tax-deductible.

Registration open for IBA All-Region Honor Band

Online registration for admission into the middle-school All-Region Honor Band opened Tuesday.

Organized by the Indiana Bandmasters Association (IBA), the All-Region Honor Band is open to students in grades 7-9.

Auditions aren’t required to get into this band. After the online application process closes Sept. 8, Mr. Ellinger will have the opportunity to add detailed information regarding each of his student’s musical abilities.

At least two students from each school are guaranteed to be accepted. Beyond that, admission is based on the overall number of applications per instrument the IBA receives. Last year, eight MVMS 8th-graders participated in the All-Region Honor Band.

To register and for more information, visit www.indianabandmasters.org/All-region/default.html. Students chosen to participate will be announced in October.

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Check out band’s updated website, FB page

The Band of Marauders disseminates information in myriad ways, so you don’t have to wait for the monthly Musical Notes to find out what’s happening.

Mr. Ellinger and the Music Boosters also notify parents via a mobile app called Remind, via emails through My Music Office, on the band’s exclusive website, and through Facebook.

Remind
8th-grade parents should have received a band handbook along with this newsletter. In that handbook, you will see a mention of Remind, a smart-phone app that enables you to receive notices from teachers.

Many teachers in the 8th Grade Academy use Remind, so it's handy to have installed. Mr. Ellinger uses it to send timely reminders and other notices.

After you download the app, text @mvband8 to 81010 to receive Remind updates specific to the 8th-grade band. Your cell phone number will not be shared with Mr. Ellinger.

If you don’t have a smartphone or don’t want to install the app, Remind can send you emails or text messages instead if you sign up at www.remind.com/join/mvband8.

My Music Office
Another item described in the band handbook is My Music Office, at mymusicoffice.com. It’s mentioned here because you can expect to receive this newsletter and other information through emails from My Music Office. Please refer to the band handbook for information on other aspects of this website.

Band website
The band’s exclusive website was set up two years ago at mvhsmusic.org. As mentioned on Page 1, one important area of the band’s website is the calendar. But the site also contains a blog on the home page, information about the Music Boosters, details on fundraisers, information on sponsors, and even an area where you can make online payments. Check it out!

Facebook
Another way to keep tabs on what’s happening is to like the Band of Marauders Social Page on Facebook. This page was set up so that all band members, families, and instructors have a place to upload photos and videos of performances, practices, social events, and even selfies. The page administrator will also post news and updates throughout the school year.

Box Tops for Education coupons help band
In pretty much every issue of Musical Notes, you’ll find at least one fund-raising article—including one to the right of this article.

Many fundraisers help the entire band department—high school as well as the 8th-grade band—because in many cases, the proceeds go into the general band department savings account.

Box Tops for Education is an easy fundraiser specific to the 8th-grade band, although the proceeds go into the band department’s general account. If you got into the habit of collecting Box Tops labels from various grocery products for the elementary schools, here’s your chance to re-establish that habit.

The Box Tops for Education program benefits only kindergarten through 8th grades. As an enrolled beneficiary, the 8th-grade band is the only entity within the high-school building that can receive the proceeds from this program.

You can find Box Tops on various brand-name items from General Mills, Ziploc, Kleenex, Pillsbury, and other companies. Each Box Tops clipping is worth 10 cents. Occasionally, you might find more than one Box Tops coupons on a label or eBoxTops of a higher value. You can deposit your clipping in the collection box at the front of the high-school band room.

Another way to contribute to this program is to use the Box Tops Bonus App on your smartphone, while still clipping the Box Top labels from your purchases.

You must become a member of Box Tops for Education to use the Box Tops Bonus App, so that the Box Tops people know which school to award the Bonus Box Tops to. To register in the Box Tops Bonus App, go to My Profile, tap Login, and follow the prompts. You can become a member through the welcome email or at www.boxtops4education.com.

Use the school’s ZIP code—46040—to pull up a list of schools. Mt Vernon 8th Grade Academy should be at the top; select it.

To use the app, tap Offers and see what Bonus Box Tops are available. Select the items you intend to purchase and use the app to scan the receipts to show you made the purchases. You can earn Box Tops only for the exact products listed, so please read the offer carefully.

BRIEFS
Middle-schoolers to perform at DCI
On Saturday, several 7th- and 8th-graders from Mt. Vernon Middle School will open the Drum Corps International (DCI) World Championship Finals at Lucas Oil Stadium.

They will be performing as part of INpact Indiana’s Future Band before the DCI competitors take the field. The band accepts students from all over the state. Students applied for the band back in February; Mr. Day nominated them based on talent, effort, and leadership.

DCI offers discounted seats to the World Finals for Indiana residents. Mr. Ellinger will have coupons available, but you can print one out from www.dci.org/ViewArticle.dbml?ATCUD=211658483&DDB_OEM_ID=1 DTe=33500. The seats you get with that coupon are in the stadium’s nose-bleed sections.

Dine to Donate at Chipotle Aug. 23
The Music Boosters are continuing the monthly Dine to Donate fundraiser at Chipotle Mexican Grill in Noblesville Aug. 23.

If you purchase from the restaurant at 12831 Campus Parkway between 5 and 9 p.m., it will donate 50 percent of the proceeds to the Music Boosters. Yes, 50 percent! All you have to do is present our flyer, show it on your smartphone, or tell the cashier verbally that you’re supporting the Mt. Vernon band when you place your order.

If you place an order online during that time, you must choose the “pay in-store” option and inform the cashier of your participation before paying.

Look for announcements in emails, Musical Notes, and on Facebook for future locations.