



Musical Notes

Volume 2, Issue 7

Mt. Vernon Music Boosters

January 2017

Calendar

- **Sunday:** Last *regular* NYC trip payment due
- **Jan. 24:** Prep meeting for IHSCGA competition, 6 p.m., auditorium
- **Jan. 26:** "Mock" Solo & Ensemble event, 5 p.m.
- **Jan. 26:** Winter guard preview, 7 p.m., main gym
- **Jan. 27:** IHSCGA competition setup (after basketball game)
- **Jan. 28:** IHSCGA competition at MVHS, all day
- **Jan. 30:** Mandatory parent meeting, 7 p.m.
- **Feb. 4:** ISSMA Solo & Ensemble district contest

'Mock' event to help students' performances

Students preparing for the district ISSMA Solo & Ensemble contest Feb. 4 will have a chance to hone their performances Jan. 26 at a "mock" Solo & Ensemble event.

"We will have band directors from around Indianapolis visit us to hear all students perform," said Mr. Ellinger. "They will then work with each solo and/or ensemble for 5 to 10 minutes to help refine their performance."

The event will be similar to the actual ISSMA Solo & Ensemble competition. "We will have rooms in the school used for performing," Mr. Ellinger said. Parents can watch if their student is OK with it.

He said the event should be finished by 7 p.m., in time for the winter guard preview that evening.

MVHS hosting winter guard contest

As you should already be aware, MVHS is hosting a [competition](#) for the Indiana High School Color Guard Association later this month. It's the second IHSCGA competition of the season; Greenwood is hosting the first contest Jan. 21.

"We know our school has an adequate layout to host a show, so we have requested to host over the past two years," said Mr. Ellinger. "We were fortunate to be picked for 2017!"

The competition will feature close to 50 teams from around the state in five classes: Cadet Class, Divisional Regional A Class, Regional A Class, A Class, and Open Class. Mt. Vernon's three teams—cadet, junior varsity, and varsity—will compete that day.

The Mt. Vernon teams can compete because MVHS "is hosting on the behalf of IHSCGA, rather than our own invitational," explained Mr. Ellinger. "We do not pick judges or the method of scoring. For this reason, we are allowed to perform."

Mr. Ellinger explained that this event will be similar to the Bands of America event we hosted at Lucas Oil Stadium in November, but on a much smaller scale. Shifts will be set up for various simple tasks similar to the BOA Super Regional, and band members and parents will be asked to help.

Of course, MVHS hopes to benefit financially. Mr. Ellinger noted that profits from such events can vary from school to school. "I have heard of schools losing money and schools making \$10,000. Most seem to profit at least \$5,000.

"Since we do not know what to expect, we are not factoring in profits from this show to any of our winter activity budgets," he continued. "Once we see how it goes, we will allocate money accordingly." If all goes well and the school turns a profit, we can expect this to become an annual event.

"Barring unforeseen circumstances, if our contest is a success, it could easily be a yearly event," Mr. Ellinger said.



Here, winter guard members practice at Fortville Elementary. They also use the high-school cafeteria and gyms for practice, depending on availability.

Varsity guard's season focusing on mythology

The winter guard teams have been practicing since Nov. 1 but won't start their competitive season until Mt. Vernon hosts an IHSCGA contest Jan. 28.

The varsity team is performing a show titled "The Way It Ends." "We do our own twist on a monster from Greek mythology" for the show, said guard director Thomas Thawley, but he stayed mum on the details.

Everyone will just have to wait until **7 p.m. Jan. 26** to see those details at the preview show in the main gym. Mr. Thawley said the event will include teams from other high schools.

This year, the varsity team is scheduled to perform at nine competitions, six of those in the IHSCGA. The junior varsity guard also will compete in five IHSCGA events.

The varsity team will also compete in the Winter Guard International (WGI) Indianapolis regional in February as well as the WGI finals in Dayton, Ohio, in early April.

Dana Sutherlin is serving as captain of the 16-member varsity team. **Lauren Vest** is the captain of the junior varsity team, which has 20 members. The cadet guard consists of 14 students.



Briefs

Band assignments on eLearning days

Last year, the school corporation began using eLearning days to replace snow days.

For classes such as math, languages, and social studies, eLearning assignments meant lots of reading and writing. For band, the assignments instead focus on listening and writing.

"We will listen to pieces of music—random band pieces or professional recordings of our concert music—and discuss them," said Mr. Ellinger. Students have to turn in reports on the recordings for a grade by the end of the day.

Mandatory meeting for parents on Jan. 30

When Mr. Ellinger selected Jan. 30 for the annual parent scheduling meeting a few months ago, he didn't know that class schedules would be turned in much sooner.

Nevertheless, the meeting is still happening at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. Mr. Ellinger plans to look at the 2017-18 band calendar, discuss band fees, and remind parents about scrip and other fundraisers to help cover the cost of those fees.

Time to re-enroll Kroger cards!

One simple way to support the band—at no cost to you—involves enrolling your Kroger Plus loyalty card in the company's Community Rewards program.

If you have already enrolled your Kroger Plus loyalty card in this program, you need to log on again and re-enroll it. Enrollments in Kroger's Community Rewards program expired at the beginning of the year.

If you haven't yet enrolled your Kroger Plus card in this

Community Rewards	
Organization Name:	MT. VERNON MUSIC BOOSTERS
Organization Number:	40019
Enrollment Date:	01/06/2017
Last Quarter Kroger Donation:	\$5.42

program, please take the time to do so now. By enrolling your loyalty card, a percentage of your Kroger purchases will go toward the band's general fund and help with expenses. The contribution might be

pennies per shopping trip, but those pennies add up. According to Mr. Ellinger, Kroger sends the band roughly \$500 per quarter.

To enroll, log on at www.kroger.com. From the Community tab, select Community Rewards. You can search on Mt. Vernon Music Boosters or on our organization number: 40019. If you are re-enrolling, you need to click the Edit button and search again for Mt. Vernon Music Boosters to update your enrollment.

Calendar updated to show next year's dates

Mr. Ellinger has updated the [band calendar](#) to show band camp dates and the MVCSC 2017-18 calendar. He wants everyone to check the calendar regularly throughout the school year, not just during marching season.

Also, he wants more families to use the Remind app, which is available free for iPhone and Android. After installing the app, text the following to **81010**:

- @mvbandhs for high school
- @mvband8 for 8th grade
- @mvbandperc for percussion

If you prefer to receive your messages via text or email, you can sign up [online](#).



This photo from last year shows band and guard members assembling orders for the annual pizza sale. This year's sale is ongoing; all orders need to be turned in **Jan 17** (next Tuesday). Ingredients for the orders will arrive at 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 21, and all students who turned in orders are expected to help assemble pizzas.

Band, choir members can try for Vaughn scholarship

Each year, the Hancock County Community Foundation offers a variety of scholarships for deserving students all over the county.

The George and Icy Vaughn Performing Arts Scholarship is just one, and you don't have to major in music to qualify. You do, however, have to perform in a competition against students from the other three public high schools in Hancock County.

Each county high school holds auditions to select one singer and one instrumentalist to perform at the county-wide competition in April. The MVHS auditions have not been scheduled

yet.

Last year, **Sabrina Woods** (Class of '16) represented the MVHS band by playing her oboe. **Ashley Fritz** was the MVHS choir representative. Both students placed second in their categories, winning \$3,000 each, as you can read [here](#).

To apply for the scholarship (as well as others), click the Apply Now button on the scholarship [page](#). You will be asked to fill out a questionnaire for a list of all the scholarships you qualify for. From there, you can apply for the various scholarships. Deadline to apply online for the Vaughn scholarship is **Feb. 1**.



Senior **Dana Sutherlin** performed with the Bands of America National Honor Band in the Rose Parade Jan. 2 in Pasadena, Calif. She is the second dancer from the left, in the back row. If you missed the parade, you can watch a short [video](#) of the band preparing for and marching in the parade. Dana appears briefly throughout the video (this screen capture is from that video).