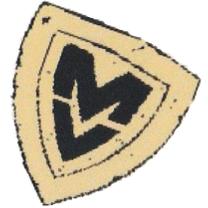




Mt. Vernon Music Boosters

# Musical Notes



## November 2015

- ◆ **Tonight through Sunday:** ["Beauty and the Beast"](#) musical
- ◆ **Sunday:** IBA All-Region Band concert, 4 p.m., Greenfield-Central High School
- ◆ **Monday, Nov. 16:** Assembly of Snow Whirl decorations, 6 p.m.
- ◆ **Friday and Saturday, Nov. 20-21:** [Clarinet Festival](#), Ball State University
- ◆ **Sunday, Nov. 22:** IBA All-District Band concert, 4 p.m., New Castle High School
- ◆ **Monday, Nov. 23:** Mandatory parent meeting for NYC trip, 7 p.m., followed by Music Boosters meeting

### *Mandatory meeting to discuss NYC trip*

Parents of current eighth-grade and high-school students who will be playing Carnegie Hall in 2017 must attend a kickoff meeting **Nov. 23 at 7 p.m.** in the band room.

A representative from Music Travel Consultants will present the itinerary and financial details at this meeting. The itinerary includes a clinic with college professors, attendance of a New York Philharmonic Orchestra concert, and visits to the Statue of Liberty, the 9/11 Memorial, Radio City Music Hall, Central Park, and other sites in the city.

A Mt. Vernon Music Boosters meeting will immediately follow the NYC meeting.

## *An Excellent Marching Season!*



The Band of Marauders improved its standing to 4th place at the ISSMA Scholastic Class A state finals Oct. 24. "While it would have been nice to achieve a 3rd or higher, I am incredibly happy with 4th place considering we were 11th last year," Mr. Ellinger commented afterward. "The performance at state finals was very solid. The students did not let the high winds or rainy weather alter their performance."

When returning home from the finals, band members were surprised to receive a police escort back to the high school as soon as the buses reached the county line.

## Signups open for annual Solo & Ensemble contest

Now that marching season is over, students can start focusing on concert band, various extracurricular bands, and the ISSMA Solo & Ensemble contest.

The contest itself doesn't happen until late January, but signups are happening now. All ensembles and soloists must turn in their entries and fees by Nov. 30.

Students can enter to perform any number of solos, as long as they use a different instrument for each solo (for example, one flute solo and one piccolo solo). Students can also participate in any number of ensembles, from trios all the way to like-instrument choirs or mixed-

instrument large ensembles (consisting of seven to 20 members).

The entry fee per solo is \$13; the entry fee for ensembles is \$7 per member.

Depending on the music students choose to perform, they can compete in groups I through IV. Soloists and ensemble groups who compete in Group I and receive a gold rating will advance to the state competition in February.

Last year, 24 ensembles and 35 soloists performed at the district competition at Doe Creek Middle School. Among the Group I performers, nine ensembles and

ten soloists advanced to the state competition.

Mr. Gardner, former Mt. Vernon director, had required that all band students participate in an ensemble. Last year, Mr. Ellinger eliminated that requirement. Instead, students could opt out of Solo & Ensemble but still would have to perform a solo before Mr. Ellinger himself.

But how many students last year took the chance to perform for Mr. Ellinger rather than a judge? "I don't think any students opted out of Solo & Ensemble," he said. "I was very happy with that!" Nevertheless, the offer still stands.



Briefs

Snow Whirl seeks volunteers

For many years, the Mt. Vernon Music Boosters has sponsored the Snow Whirl, a holiday dance scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 12. It's the biggest fundraiser for the music department.

Volunteers are still needed to help; parents can help man the coat table or food tables. Donations are also sought for cookies, brownies, fruit, melting chocolate, and punch ingredients.

And if anyone has a full-size carousel horse, please consider lending it to the dance committee.

Band students will be asked to help make decorations for the dance at 6 p.m. Monday. Meet in the band hall.

Pep band taking 8th graders

The Band of Marauders pep band starts rehearsing pretty soon, and among the musicians will be a few 8th graders. "Since Mr. Day combined his jazz band and pep band, I decided to open this to 8th graders via invitation," explained Mr. Ellinger.

The band will have only one rehearsal before its first "live" performance Nov. 20 at a girls varsity basketball game vs. Rushville. (The one originally scheduled for this week has been cancelled because of the musical.)

Missed a newsletter? Check the online archives

If you need to refer to a past issue of Musical Notes, you can find an [archive](#) of issues on the Mt. Vernon Performing Arts website.

Musical mixes talents of drama, choir, and band students

While marching season was still in full swing, some members of the Band of Marauders put in some overtime, but not on the practice field.

Twelve band members are taking part in the upcoming musical "Beauty and the Beast": II by playing in the pit orchestra, and one by performing on stage.

On stage, sophomore flute player Sydney Blankenship is performing as an ensemble cast member. Sitting above the green room off stage left is the pit orchestra: sophomore Matthew Rollo on violin (he plays bari sax in the concert band), senior Sabrina Woods on oboe and English horn, sophomore Emma Flick on oboe, sophomore Nikki



Schreiner on flute, senior Cassandra Bridges on clarinet, sophomore Betsy McCleery on bass clarinet, sophomore Andrew Roembke on trumpet, junior Gavin Stamper on French horn, sophomore Victoria Miller on drum set, and

sophomores Michael Pellom and Patrick Watson on percussion.

The curtain will rise on "Beauty and the Beast" at 7 p.m. tonight through Sunday.

MV musicians preparing for IBA honor band concerts

Each year, the Indiana Bandmasters Association seeks talented students to participate in honor bands throughout the state. This year, 15 students from the high school and middle school applied for and were accepted into these bands.

Mr. Ellinger explained that band directors from the cooperating schools meet to determine who among the applicants will be chosen. The host school's band director and the guest conductor work together to figure out what instruments will be needed for the concert. The directors base their decisions on the information provided by each student's band director at the bottom half of the application page.

The middle-school students chosen for

Mr. Ellinger recently announced the requirements for the IBA All-State bands. Applications are due this week. Auditions for the high-school band will be in January; audition tapes for middle-school musicians are due this weekend.

the 35th annual All-Region Band are Gavin Blankenship (trombone), Sarah Cardenas (flute), Anastasia Deimling (flute), Benjamin Emery (French horn), Cooper Gray (trombone), Virginia Mathis (tenor sax), Emma Moore (flute), and Hailey Watson (percussion).

The high-school students chosen for the 16th annual All-District Band are Emily Bostrom (tenor sax), Cassandra Bridges (clarinet), William Linville

(euphonium), Andrew Roembke (trumpet), Evan Schacherer (trombone), and Sabrina Woods (1st chair oboe).

Both bands rehearse and determine section placement the day before their concerts. Students receive their music ahead of time and are expected to be familiar with it before arriving at their rehearsal location.

The middle-school All-Region Bands will premiere a piece commissioned for 2015: "The Dark Waters" by Matt Conaway. The local band's performance will be at 4 p.m. Sunday at Greenfield-Central High School.

The local high-school All-District Band will perform at 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22, at New Castle High School.