

Musical Notes



Most of the band's recent graduates. **Front row:** Alana McClain, Hannah Darst, Holly Haney, Emily Bostrum, Jennifer McGowen, Erin Dunn, Emma Flick, Alexis Franklin, Mary Barnett, and Lindsey Bonfiglio. **Back row:** Will Kalvaitis, Bobby Sanders, Alex Rodriguez, Jacob Daswani, Tara Paarlberg, Matthew Rollo, Betsy McCleery, Nikki Schreiner, Sydney Blankenship, Brett Meyer, and Jacob Chaves. **Missing from the lineup:** Andrew Roembke, Grace Miller, Michael Pellom, Patrick Watson, and Nathan Williams.

Band graduates receive awards, scholarships

A few weeks before donning their robes and mortarboards, several outgoing band seniors received various awards and recognitions May 7 at Senior Awards Night.

The following band members received service and citizenship merit awards: Mary Barnett, Jacob Chaves, Alexis Franklin, Alana McClain, Elizabeth McCleery, Tara Paarlberg, and Matthew Rollo. Matthew Rollo was also recognized as a National Honor Society officer (treasurer) and a Mt. Vernon AP Scholar with Honor.

Band members also received the following scholarships: Kristofer J. Hammond Scholarship (\$1,000), Betsy McCleery; Mark Mattick Mental Attitude Award (\$500), Emma Flick; Chris Sullivan Memorial Music Booster Scholarships (\$530 each), Emma Flick and Jennifer McGowen;

Psi Iota Xi Debbie Plank Memorial Music Scholarship (\$1,000), Matthew Rollo; George and Icy Vaughn Performing Arts Scholarship (\$3,000 for first-place instrumental): Tara Paarlberg; and Nancy Terrell Miller Scholarship (\$1,145): Tara Paarlberg. Matthew Rollo received a certificate to acknowledge his being a Lilly Scholarship finalist, but he wasn't awarded any scholarship money because he's going to college out of state.

Other awards included a Marine Corps Semper Fidelis Award for Jacob Daswani and Top Scholar Awards for Jennifer McGowen and Matthew Rollo. Among the department awards given out, Emma Flick received the Band department's award and Matthew Rollo received the Social Studies award.



Left: Graduating seniors were required to perform with the band, as is custom. **Above:** Matthew Rollo was the Class of 2018's valedictorian.



CALENDAR

- > **June 4-7:** Marching band and color guard practice, 5-9 p.m.
- > **June 8:** Color guard practice, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.; marching band practice, 5-9 p.m.
- > **June 8:** Ice Cream Social, 9 p.m.
- > **June 15:** Marriage of Mr. Ellinger and Abby Whitaker
- > **July 16-20, 23-27:** Band Camp #2, 12-9 p.m.
- > **July 21:** Motorcycles for Marauders



Motorcyclists to raise funds for band

Last year's inaugural Motorcycles for Marauders had such a good response that it has become an annual band fundraiser.

This year, the event will happen July 21, in the middle of Band Camp #2. Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. at the new location for Harley-Davidson of Indianapolis, 12400 Reynolds Dr., Fishers. At 11 a.m., it's kickstands up as the registered motorcycles head out for a two- to 2½-hour drive around central Indiana.

The ride will end at Mt. Vernon High School, where the band will entertain while the Music Boosters feed the riders.

You can preregister (recommended) your motorcycle and any riders [here](#).

Ellinger departing for southern climes

As many of you already know, this week is Mr. Ellinger's last week with Mt. Vernon High School. He is leaving to tackle the newly created role of Associate Director of Bands at Franklin Central High School in southeastern Marion County.

"When I was hired at Mt. Vernon, I fully expected to be here in the long term," he said. He admitted that he wasn't actively looking for work elsewhere, but life intervened.

His fiancée's family lives in Johnson County and his parents now live in Fountain Square. Simply put, taking a job on Indy's south side made sense. "I cannot be the band director I want to be with a 45-minute, one-way commute," he said, noting that his Mt. Vernon job kept him at school past 10 p.m. too many times. "It was an extremely tough decision, but one that is best for my family."

Franklin Central is a much larger

school, with 220 students (and 30 guard members) in its band program, and with many of the same ensembles that Mt. Vernon has, except for steel pan. The band competes in Open Class A in ISSMA and Bands of America competitions.

"Mt. Vernon is a great place to teach and work," Mr. Ellinger said. "I cherish the time I have spent here and would not trade the past four years for anything!"

Band works Ball Day concessions

Juniors *Miracle Williams* and *Will Farrell* worked at the Hampton field concession stand this past Saturday at Fortville's Ball Day.

Ball Day, sponsored by the Mt. Vernon Optimist Club, celebrates the area's Little League baseball teams. The Optimist Club proudly serves as one of the band's top sponsors. In return for its sponsorship, the band is asked to work the concession stands and help along the parade route for Ball Day.



Additional end-of-year awards presented

Several students received awards during Extravaganza:

- > **John Philip Sousa Award:** Emma Flick
- > **Louis Armstrong Jazz Award:** Andrew Roembke
- > **Outstanding Senior:** Jennifer McGowen
- > **Outstanding Junior:** Nate Davis
- > **Most Improved Junior:** Sydney Ehrgott on Scott
- > **Outstanding Sophomore:** Gavin Blankenship
- > **Most Improved Sophomore:** Ginny Mathis
- > **Outstanding Freshman:** Landen Norton
- > **Most Improved Freshman:** Cameron
- The **Tristan Carson Memorial Scholarship** of \$500 was awarded to Nikki Schreiner.
- At the 8th-grade promotion ceremony May 24, Mr. Ellinger gave out the following awards:
- > **Outstanding:** Ella Adams
- > **Most Improved:** Peyton Stinger

Several spots still open for work at Conner Prairie

Considering the expense of marching band, the Music Boosters continue to hold fundraisers throughout the summer months.

You've already heard about Motorcycles for Marauders (Page 1) and Ball Day (above). Those two annual fundraisers contribute to the band's general account. Meanwhile, band students can raise funds for their individual accounts by working at Conner Prairie for Symphony on the Prairie nights.

Dates have been selected for Mt. Vernon band members to cover 11 spots at the concessions stands or café during

Symphony on the Prairie. Student workers must be at least 16. (All spots are already taken for the beer and wine tent, which requires that workers be at least 21.)

Band families can earn money for individual band accounts for \$6.50 an hour. The work is relatively easy, the shifts aren't long, and you get to hear the show from the amphitheater at the same time.

The work shifts for several shows are already filled, so get what shows you want to work while you still can! You can sign up for concessions/café shifts [here](#).

BRIEFS

New drum majors announced

Senior **TJ Bass** and junior **Madelyn Lowell** were selected to serve as drum majors for the 2018-2019 school year.



The two will spend the last week of June training at Drum Major Camp during the Music For All Symposium at Ball State University in Muncie.

TJ was assistant drum major to Emma Flick this past school year.

Ice cream social to end Band Camp #1

This coming Friday, the Music Boosters invite band families to celebrate the end of Band Camp #1 with an ice cream social.

The social will begin at 9 p.m. in the hallway in front of the cafeteria. Various flavors of ice cream, toppings, whipped cream, and even maraschino cherries will be offered.

My last newsletter for the band...

I've enjoyed being the band's communications coordinator for the past three years. But now that my daughter has graduated and I no longer have a student in the band, I'm passing the communications baton over to **Sam Mathis** while I become the band alumni rep.

Sam's daughter, **Ginny**, is now a junior, playing tenor saxophone. Sam has already been posting to the band's Facebook account. He will start producing the newsletters in July.

Go Marauders! *SUSAN*

