Band prepares to host IHSCGA prelims

Like last year, Mt. Vernon High School is hosting an Indiana High School Color Guard Association (IHSCGA) competition.

Unlike last year, this competition happens later in the season and will be considerably shorter. On March 3, the first winter guard team will perform at noon, and the whole event will be finished by 5 p.m. Contrast that with last year’s competition beginning around 11 a.m. and ending around 9 p.m.

Mr. Ellinger is assigning all band students to various roles throughout the event. Students in the indoor percussion ensemble have a competition the same day, so they will be assigned to help with setup the night before the preliminaries.

Adult volunteers will still be needed, however, so expect to see emails from Signup Genius soon.

Both Mt. Vernon teams will compete in the preliminaries. It may be hosted by Mt. Vernon, but because it’s run by the IHSCGA, Mt. Vernon teams are allowed to compete.

Students preparing for state Solo & Ensemble

Thirteen soloists and six ensembles have qualified to compete at ISSMA’s Solo & Ensemble state competition.

To qualify, they had to earn gold ratings in Group I at the district event Jan. 27 at Noblesville High School.

The following soloists qualified for the state competition (one student qualified on two different instruments). Numbers in parentheses indicate grade level.

> **Gavin Blankenship** (10), trombone
> **Sydney Blankenship** (12), flute
> **Tyler Carrow** (11), trumpet
> **Jacob Chaves** (12), euphonium
> **Nate Davis** (11), baritone saxophone
> **Ginny Mathis** (10), tenor saxophone
> **Jennifer McGowen** (12), flute
> **Victoria Miller** (12), marimba
> **Landen Norton** (9), tuba
> **Tara Paarlberg** (12), clarinet
> **Andrew Roembke** (12), trumpet and flugelhorn
> **Carlie Sanders** (10), trumpet
> **Isaac Swinford** (10), tenor saxophone

The following ensembles also qualified (many freshmen):

> **Brass octet:** Gavin Blankenship (10), Jacob Daswani (12), Brayden Hardie (8), Alissa Hindman (11), Logan Moore (11), Landen Norton (9), Andrew Roembke (12), and Carlie Sanders (10)
> **Brass quintet:** Eli Barboza (11), Gavin Blankenship (10), Logan Moore (11), Andrew Roembke (12), and Carlie Sanders (10)

Students preparing for the ISSMA’s Solo & Ensemble state competition.

> **Saxophone trio:** TJ Bass (11), Evan Flick (9), and Shiloh McFarland (9)
> **Clarinet choir:** Kendal Bowman (9), Abby Corbly (9), Sydney Godwin (10), Tori Hansen (9), Dayton Jennings (10), Madalyn Lowell (10), Betsy McCleery (12), Haley Merida (10), Sarai Moore (9), and Tara Paarlberg (12)
> **Low brass quartet:** Jacob Chaves (12), Ethan Cottrell (9), Landen Norton (9), and Jack Walsh (9)
> **Woodwind trio:** Emma Flick (12), Jennifer McGowen (12), and Tara Paarlberg (12)

The state event is Feb. 24 at North Central High School in Indianapolis.

Food truck serves as month’s Dine to Donate

Later this week, Papa John’s will have a pizza truck on school grounds for this month’s Dine to Donate fundraiser.

The truck will be in the marching band’s practice lot from 3:30-7 p.m. Thursday.

A flyer is available, but you don’t need to present it for the band to receive credit (but you can distribute flyers to help promote the event).

All pizzas sold will benefit the band program. Papa John’s will donate 20 percent of the proceeds to the bands.
Roembke signs with Bluecoats, starts May 15

Senior **Andrew Roembke** will be performing with the Bluecoats drum and bugle corps this summer. He signed the dotted line last month to play his trumpet for the band based in Canton, Ohio.

The Bluecoats are a perennial favorite to appear in the Drum Corps International (DCI) World Finals in Indianapolis in August.

Over Thanksgiving weekend, Andrew attended a Bluecoats camp in Canton and was offered a callback. At another camp in January, Andrew had to perform two solo pieces, a choreographed dance, and various other things. He was offered a contract Jan. 14, at the end of the second camp.

During Spring Break, Andrew will spend some time at a Brass Camp in Canton.

He will start his summer with the Bluecoats **May 15**, taking his finals roughly two weeks before the end of school but returning for graduation.

Other Mt. Vernon students have performed with DCI bands in recent years: Gavin Stamper with the Madi-son (Wis.) Scouts in 2015 and Dana Sutherlin with Denver’s Blue Knights last year. “The Bluecoats are the corps that Andrew has enjoyed watching the most,” explained his mom, Amanda Fronel. “He really likes the style of their shows and felt that is where he would find a good fit.”

**This past weekend, the jazz band performed at the Pendleton Jazz Festival. No judging was involved, but the band did receive valuable feedback and participated in a clinic. The band will compete in Group II at the ISSMA Jazz Festival March 2.**

Please check your Kroger receipts

For the last quarter of 2017, the quarterly amount Kroger sent to the Mt. Vernon Music Boosters was down by about $200.

Normally, Kroger sends roughly $500 per quarter.

Please check your Kroger receipts to make sure that the Music Boosters are listed as receiving Community Rewards from your use of the Kroger Plus card. If you don’t see that on your receipt, you must log on to enroll it. If your card is usually enrolled in Kroger’s Community Rewards program to benefit the Music Boosters, you must re-enroll in it; enrollments in the program expired at the beginning of the year.

To enroll or re-enroll, log on at www.kroger.com. Scroll to the bottom of the home page to the **Community** header and click **Kroger 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.

Box Tops fundraiser coming to an end

When the Music Boosters set up the Box Tops for Education fundraiser, the connection was the 8th-grade band. The Box Tops program is only for kindergarten through 8th grade.

But now with the 8th grade moving back to the middle school in the fall, the high school band will discontinue the Box Tops fundraiser.

The last batch of Box Tops clippings will be sent in **March 1**, so if you have any clippings, make sure you get them in the designated box on the table at the front of the band room. Any Box Tops that come in after that will be given to the middle school.

“Over the past year we have made about $400 from collecting Box Tops,” said Erin Flick, treasurer for the Music Boosters.

Most Box Top clippings are worth 10 cents each, but you can find coupons and other clippings that are worth more.

**Leadership roles open for nomination**

The Music Boosters are now accepting nominations for positions on the executive board, as well as volunteers to coordinate various important activities.

The Boosters are losing many parent volunteers as their children graduate this year. Please read this blog post to see what positions and roles are available and how to nominate yourself.

**Eagle Scout project graces hallway**

Senior **Nathan Williams** completed his Eagle Scout project this weekend. He installed wooden racks on the walls of the music hallway to hold plaques awarded to the bands and choirs.

He still needs to turn in the paperwork for the project and go through a Board of Review before being awarded his Eagle Scout rank.

A percussionist, Nathan is a member of Mt. Comfort Troop 236.

**IU to host annual summer music clinic**

Registration is now open for the 73rd annual Summer Music Clinic at Indiana University-Bloomington. This clinic, slated for **June 17-23**, is open to students now in grades 8-12.

No auditions are required to attend the clinic, but placement auditions will be held the first day for the various ensembles. The clinic offers two concert bands, an orchestra, and two jazz bands, as well as small brass, woodwind, and string ensembles.

Students will stay in campus housing. They will perform their final concerts in IU’s famed Musical Arts Center.