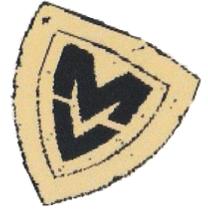




Mt. Vernon Music Boosters

Musical Notes



Calendar

- ◇ **Friday and Saturday:** Extravaganza, 7 p.m.
- ◇ **May 16:** Music Boosters meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◇ **May 18 and 25:** Marching band movement classes, 6-9 p.m.
- ◇ **May 26:** Last day for students
- ◇ **May 27:** Graduation (rain dates: May 28 and 29)
- ◇ **May 31:** Center Stage send-off concert, 6:30 p.m.
- ◇ **June 1:** Next installment payment due for NYC trip
- ◇ **June 1-3, 6-10:** First marching band camp, 6-9 p.m.

Choirs preparing for Spring Sing, Carnegie Hall

Like the band, the MVHS choirs also have a traditional end-of-the-year performance coming up.

A week after Extravaganza, the Spring Sing will feature all of the school's choirs: Premier, Expressions, Center Stage, and Locked Out. The show starts at **6:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 20-21**, in the school auditorium. Admission is \$5.

According to Miss Anderson, choir director, this year's theme is "Out with a Bang!" It focuses on the seniors, who helped choose the musical selections.

At **6:30 p.m. May 31** is a send-off performance for Center Stage, whose members are heading to New York City in June to perform at Carnegie Hall. Admission is free.

Extravaganza to feature a 'Murder Mystery'

The Extravaganza is almost as old as the Mt. Vernon Community School Corp. and, like the schools, is still going strong.

First performed in 1964—the year after Mt. Vernon's formation—the Extravaganza was the brainchild of the high school's first band director, Stan Ricks. Extravaganza has been a standard since then, being performed each year though the tenure of eight band directors. (Mr. Ellinger is MVHS's eighth director.)

Each year, the band's seniors choose the theme and the song selections. This year's theme is "Murder Mystery."

"Like the title suggests, Extravaganza is going to be on the more mysterious side rather than a happy, bright side," said Evan Schacherer, the senior in charge of the theme. "Unfortunately, I don't want to give away *too* much, because some things have to be a surprise."

He said that the concert will end with "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," as usual, and will include a couple of contest pieces. "Other than those, we are planning on playing a piece that was played a few years ago, as well as a couple new ones," he explained.

Remaining Extravaganza Rehearsals (High-School Concert Band Only)

- Monday, 4-6 p.m.
- Wednesday, 4-6 p.m.
- Thursday, 6:30-9 p.m. (dress rehearsal)

"But like I said, we can't reveal all of the cards in our hand yet."

The show—performed **Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m.** in the auditorium—will also include the jazz band and the steel pan ensemble both nights, and the 8th-grade band on Saturday only. Admission is \$5.



Drum majors chosen for coming season

Katie Smith and **Emma Flick** will serve as drum majors for the coming school year. Emma served as junior drum major this past season; Katie served as field commander.

Students interested in other leadership positions for the marching season—positions such as section leader and field commander—can pick up applications Monday in the band room.

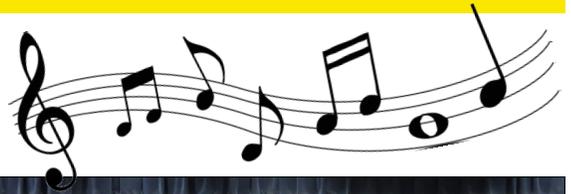
Movement classes to help students prepare for marching season

Last year, Mr. Ellinger started a new program to help band students prepare for the marching season. He called them "movement classes."

On Wednesday evenings twice this month (May 18 and 25), band members will meet in the school cafeteria to stretch, exercise, and—oh, yeah—march.

"The movement rehearsals give us a head start on how we stand and move, and allows us to teach the body warm-up we do at the start of every rehearsal," Mr. Ellinger said. He noted that most schools that take marching band competition seriously hold similar classes during the season.

Students should wear clothes that allow them to move easily, such as athletic shorts and T-shirts. The classes will be held in the school cafeteria, unless the weather is nice enough to work outside. Classes start at 6 p.m. and end at 9 p.m.



In the Spotlight

Woods wins scholarship

Senior oboe player **Sabrina Woods** won a \$3,000 George and Icy Vaughn Performing Arts Scholarship last month.

Eight finalists vied for up to \$20,000 in scholarship



money through this Hancock County Community Foundation endowment. Each school in Hancock County chooses one student for each of two categories (instrumental and vocal) to compete for scholarship dollars.

Ashley Fritz, a soprano in the Center Stage choir, was the vocal finalist from MVHS; she also won a \$3,000 scholarship. Sabrina and Ashley both placed second in their respective categories. An alto saxophone player from New Palestine High School won the top (\$4,000) instrumental scholarship; a boy from Greenfield-Central High School won the top vocal scholarship.

To become a finalist, Sabrina had to survive a school-level audition against one other band member. She performed before a selection committee consisting of Mr. Ellinger, choir director Leigh Anderson, Principal Bernie Campbell, Director of Guidance Jamie Beaver, and Jennifer Sherbak, a "teacher with musical expertise" (as required by scholarship rules). Each successful audition meant a \$500 scholarship just for advancing to the finals, so Sabrina's and Ashley's actual take was \$3,500 each.

Sabrina is considering majoring in criminal psychology at IUPUI this fall.

Gold ratings reflect dedication, hard work of students

It was a bit of a late night for a student performance—starting at 9 p.m. but not getting home until after 11—but the late hours didn't faze members of the high-school concert band.

Taking the stage at Pendleton Heights High School on April 22, the band put on a stellar Group I performance, receiving gold ratings from all three performance judges. The band also received a gold rating for its sight-reading skills afterward.

"I feel the band did very well on a



The 8th-grade band received a gold rating Friday, April 8, after competing at the middle-school ISSMA Organizational Festival at Greenfield Central Junior High School. One of the judges even rated the band with a score that was 1/2 point away from perfect. "I cannot wait for them to join the high-school band!" said Mr. Ellinger.

challenging program," said Mr. Ellinger afterward. "While many schools only have one band like ours, most do not enter in Group I."

He noted that this is the eighth year in a row that the MVHS concert band has performed in Group I and achieved a

gold rating. And for that, he credits the students. "Directors may change, but the determination and work ethic of the students do not," he explained. "Their accomplishment is a testament to support of our parents and the district's continued support of music education." *GOOD JOB, MARAUDERS!*

Support the band through AmazonSmile

The Mt. Vernon Music Boosters recently set up an account with AmazonSmile, the online retailer's community rewards program.

You can easily enroll your existing Amazon or Amazon Prime account with AmazonSmile. Every time you purchase through AmazonSmile, the company donates 0.5 percent of the purchase price of your eligible purchases to the music boosters.

To enroll your account, go to smile.amazon.com. While there, you can install the Amazon Assistant, which you can use to take you automatically to AmazonSmile before making any purchases. Amazon places the button for the Assistant on your browser's toolbar.

For your purchases to benefit the boosters, you must *always* start at smile.amazon.com. If you need to make a purchase for your Kindle or a digital music download, you must start at smile.amazon.com (on a computer browser) for the purchase to count. However, until Amazon comes out with an app for it, AmazonSmile isn't available for purchases made through smart phones.

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Please see <http://smile.amazon.com/about> for program details.

Meet the music booster leadership team!

If you attended the parent meeting May 2, you saw a lineup of the parents who serve as officers and in other leadership positions within the Mt. Vernon Music Boosters.

If you missed that meeting (or even if you attended it), you can get to know the leadership team a little better at the next booster meeting, at **7 p.m. Monday, May 16**, in the music classroom across the hall from the band room.

Snacks and finger foods will be available, as will a chance to socialize with leaders and other parents.

So please come, find out what we do, and see how you can get involved!

