

PAW PRINT

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sept. 11

- College Fair 8-11
- FB @ Adamsville 7:00
- Spirit Day: Patriotic Day

Sept. 12

- TRUE BLUE Radio Show live at 9 am on FM 93.9

Sept. 14

- VB JCM (H)5:00

Sept. 15

- GOLF @ TCA 3:30
- Magazine Turn-In 7:30 (LT)
- Pickwick Electric Annual Meeting 3:30-8:30 Commons/LT
- VB Chester Country (H) 5:00

Sept. 16

- Progress Reports

Sept. 17

- NHS Meeting - HR (LT)
- GSOC @ Liberty 5:00

HOMECOMING SPIRIT DAYS:

Sept. 14

- Dress-up Day

Sept. 15

- College Day

Sept. 16

- Class Color Day

Sept. 17

- Twin Day

Sept. 18

- Blue and Gold Day
- Senior Parent Ads are due in Journalism by 3:00 Friday, September 11!**

Bobcat Band: Marching To The Beat of Another Successful Season



Staff Photo by Lisa Forsythe

Emily Hill

The success and achievements of the McNairy Central Bobcat Band are not a secret, but their 2009 field show: "TOP SECRET...A Spy's life" is indeed "top secret."

Band director Ryan Foret

and his staff have created yet another masterpiece of originality. Foret commented about this year's show, "A Spy's Life will take our band to a whole new level. Our shows are always about telling a story and entertaining a crowd. This year's show

will do that and more."

The show is balanced yet exciting with a medley of thrilling choreography and explosive music. The band has been hard at work keeping their reputation up and meeting the chal-

lenge tough music and choreography they have ever had. Band members practice every school day from 1:30- 3:00 PM. and from 1:30-5:00 PM. On Tuesdays and Thursdays they have extended practice sessions until 5:00

PM. On Saturday mornings, the band works in rehearsal before boarding the bus to travel to the day's competition. Color guard and percussion sections hold additional weekend practices prior to competitions. Most sections hold practices on Mondays until 4:30 PM and even take it upon themselves to run laps on practice days to improve breathing so the show is more powerful musically as well as physically. Rachel Pittman one of three dedicated brass captains says, "You have a goal each time you practice, and you always try to achieve that goal."

Due to the band's constant motivation towards self-improvement in the

past years, the trophy case in the MCHS commons is filled with awards and honors. When asked what she thought the "secret" recipe for an award-winning band is, Pittman replied jokingly, "Three parts family, two parts hard work, two parts dedication, five parts great band director, a dash of passion, and a sprinkle of love. Best recipe if you want a truly amazing band."

Fans of the Bobcat Band can catch them entertaining and promoting school spirit at pep rallies at Friday night football games as well as competing at Saturday competitions throughout west Tennessee.

Drum Major: Leading the band to success

Sarah Robinson

A successful drum major can lead a band in a way that helps it to perform at its best, and based on past performances, Ashley Petty is good at what she does.

For the second year in a row, Ashley has earned the title of drum major and leads the band with a positive attitude. Her

main job is to keep the band in sync, but she also does behind-the-scenes work to keep everything in order. Ashley admits that it is hard work, but she enjoys being part of the family atmosphere.

"She is dedicated," says band mate Rachel Pittman. When not on the band field, Ashley sings in a group called Living Truth

with her dad. She enjoys going to the movies with friends and listening to her mp3 player.

After high school, Ashley plans to attend Blue Mountain College, where she will major in elementary education. Ashley thanks the community for their support and hopes to see them at the band shows.

Talented Twirlers

Anna Crabb

The Bobcat Band would not be complete without the color and energy the color guard brings to the show. From the beginning of the field show until the very end, color guard is on the field performing, led by seniors Tara Price and Courtney Norris. This year's show is about a spy's life. The guard members act like spies as they march a drill that is woven in and out of the band's drill while doing routines with flags and rifles.

Color guard practices at least ten hours a week, not including practices held on Saturdays and before performances, or individual practice. "You have to be devoted," says Courtney Norris. "It takes a lot of hard work, but it's fun." Both girls agree that

the hardest part of color guard is the amount of time it takes up. With all of the games, practices, and performances, it's hard to find time to relax.

Tara and Courtney joined color guard because it's something different. "The color guard gets to stand out, whereas the band has to be completely uniform. I like to stand out," says Tara.

The girls have learned a lot from color guard. It has taught them dedication, teamwork, and determination. "I had to learn not to be self-conscious or shy no matter how ridiculous I thought performing was," says Tara Price. Although this is the last year of color guard for both Tara and Courtney, Tara says that she would enjoy instructing color guard in the future.

They Got the Beat

Payden Donahoe

Football season is in full swing, and that means halftime shows featuring the Bobcat band. Keeping the beat for the band are senior percussionists Emilie Johnson, Ryan Reed, and Daniel Burkean.

Ryan plays snare drum, Emilie plays snare in marching season and mallet instruments in concert season, and Daniel plays in auxiliary, or pit. All three have been in band throughout and before their years in high school, and have put lots of time and effort into performances. A love of music is one of the main things that causes these seniors to do what they do. Another is the spirit of camaraderie. "My favorite part of band is when we all gel together with unity when we are competing for a group at competition and everyone knows that we did our best," says Emilie.

Outside of band, music is still a passion. Ryan plays drums in a band at his church, and also plays piano. Emilie plays piano and viola. Aside from musical interests, the trio enjoy such activities as spending time with friends, writing, and serving in their churches.

There are many challenges to face as a member of the Bobcat band. "The most difficult thing to me is remembering everything," says Ryan. "You feel like a machine. You have to focus on marching, staying in time, playing your music, and remembering all the little details that make our band shine."

Though this is the last year for these students, they still have plenty of opportunity to do what they love and use their talents as an important part of the Bobcat marching band.

Low Brass: Baritones Crescendo

Emily Hill

The band faces some casualties this year as they say goodbye to their four senior baritone play-

ers: Adam Court, Hannah Forsythe, Drew Hemby, and Rachel Pittman.

Adam and Drew are section leaders, while

Hannah and Rachel are brass captains and have been section leaders in past years. With authority comes great responsibility, and these four live up to the role.

When they joined band, they acquired a new love for hard work, dedication, and a rush of adrenaline when they perform, the music they perform, and a love for the family they became a part of. Dur-

Hardworking Woodwinds

Kelsey Pierce

For five seniors of the MCHS Bobcat Band woodwind section, band is more than just their fourth block class. They consider it a family, and to some, even a future. The three clarinet players include Desirae Brakhage, Kim Patrick, and Jamie Wagner. Amanda McVay plays the flute, and Shannon Griffin plays saxophone. Desirae, who is also woodwind captain, commented on what she personally got out of band. "We, the leaders, guide and set an example for everyone else in the band. We teach the younger or less experienced members of the band and try to push them to do their individual best. That responsibility also inspires me to do better than I've ever done."

Currently, the band is in what is known as

Marching Season, which is where they compete against rival schools by performing their band shows at competitions. According to Amanda McVay, marching is what she enjoys most about band. "It takes a lot of work and dedication but when you win and take home those trophies, it makes it all worth it."

Having each been in band for six or seven years, these seniors know plenty about the music they play. That doesn't stop Jamie Wagner from wanting to learn more difficult music. When concert season begins, it's about time when the music gets more difficult and the instruments start changing. At least that's the case for Jamie, who switches from clarinet to bass clarinet and contra bass clarinet. When asked who influenced her the most music-wise, Jamie

answered, "Probably Foret, just because he pushes us."

For clarinet-playing senior, Kim Patrick, band should be considered an extreme sport. She has suffered numerous injuries while on the field. "I'm the self-proclaimed 'klutz' of the band," said Kim. "I've had a broken elbow and foot, and I'm just now recovering from an injury to my calf muscle."

No matter how happy someone might be with his or her instrument, there is still that curiosity, that question of "What would it be like to play this instrument?" For Shannon Griffin, the senior section leader of the saxophones, the drums and piano are two instruments she wouldn't mind learning, if she ever had the opportunity.

Hanging with the Brass

Trula Rockwell

This year's Bobcat Band seniors have shown that their dedication to their craft and seven years of experience has honed their skills to make them what they are today.

Influenced by her older sister, Hannah Mead has worked hard to reach the position as a self-disciplined and dedicated section leader. Her favorite part of band is the competitions. She first began marching with the Bobcat Band in 2005 during her eighth grade year, playing the trumpet. She also

ing the marching season, these four "family" members play the baritone (a marching trombone that has valves instead of a slide), and the trombone during the concert season. However, these talented musicians are constantly active, whether it is learning a new instrument or joining another club. Drew Hemby also plays the tuba, trumpet, and guitar; Rachel plays the

plays the piano. She has decided to attend college at either Freed-Hardeman or MTSU.

Bridgette Butler has played the saxophone for most of high school but is currently playing the flugelhorn. She is apart of choir as well. Her favorite thing about band is the music.

Emily Pitts began playing the French horn in middle school. She originally wanted to play the trumpet or saxophone, but Foret asked her to play the French horn because he found her more suited for piano and also the cello for her senior project.

Adam plays soccer and is in the Bobcat Community Service Club; Hannah is involved in six different clubs in which she holds leadership positions.

Besides hanging out with great friends, Drew trap shots, Adam hangs at the pool, Hannah is involved in her youth group, and Rachel practices and hangs at the

it. She now plays French horn and mellophone in the Bobcat Band. She plans to apply to college at Austin Peay, Belmont, Rhodes, or Vanderbilt.

Kimberly Spencer plays mellophone, trumpet, and other brass instruments. She's always had a love for music, but friends that were in band such as Cody Smith and Ryan Davis inspired her. Her favorite part about band is being involved in something important and the challenges the music brings. She plans to attend college at UT Martin.

This ensemble has ambitious plans after graduation and all plan on continuing band in college. Drew and Rachel plan on going to UT Martin to major in music education, Adam wants to attend UT Martin or the Air Force Academy, and Hannah Forsythe plans to attend Union University for Biblical studies and languages.

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