

Morrow Gets Vernonia Bands Ready to Perform

Andy Morrow has a very busy conclusion to his first school year in Vernonia.

Morrow, who took over this year as the Vernonia band instructor, was preparing the Vernonia High School Band for their next Band Festival on April 16 in Clatskanie. This performance provides the VHS Band with their final opportunity to qualify for the state band competition. The Vernonia Middle School Band is also practicing for their District Festival on April 22 in Forest Grove.

"Most everything happens at the end of the year, which is both good and bad," says Morrow. "As everything else at school, like testing, is coming to an end, we're just ramping up."

Morrow also has the upcoming VHS Band Spring Concert, which will be held on Monday, May 5. This concert will be very special as it features the return of former Vernonia band instructor Rob Izzett who will be co-directing a joint performance between the VHS Band and his Mazama High School Band from Klamath Falls.

The VHS band will also perform at the graduation ceremony on May 31.

Meanwhile, the Vernonia Middle School Band is also preparing for their Spring concert on May 13.

In addition to all the upcoming band performances, Morrow says he has two individual students, senior Sarah Wagner on the tuba and freshman Kaitlyn Eyrrick on the clarinet, who will play in the "Music in May" concert, a three day event which Morrow describes as an honor band where the students will play in a band, be critiqued on their performing and also receive some private lessons.

In addition, Morrow says senior Jacob Medearis just won the District trombone solo and will compete at the state solo contest on May 3 at Lewis and Clark college. "Jacob is doing some really good work," says Morrow.

First year instructor Morrow has a Bachelors Degree in Music and a Masters in Education from Portland State University. He has had previous teaching experience working with the Portland Youth Philharmonic and the Portland Youth Jazz Orchestra. He plays the trombone as his main instrument.

Morrow is hoping the VHS Band can score high enough at their Band Festival to qualify for the state

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Andy Morrow practicing with his VHS Band.

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