

Vernonia Middle School band goes to band festival for first time

When asked when the last time a Vernonia Middle School (VMS) band participated in a band festival, Vernonia music

teacher, Bonnie Holce, responded, "Never." Until February 23, 2007, that is. A VMS band numbering 30 students

went to Warner Pacific College in Portland and spent the day listening to other bands around the area, before per-

forming themselves at the end of the day. Kaytee Burghard, a seventh grade clarinet player said, "When I heard the first band perform, I could feel the music flowing through me. I could see it in my mind and it was beautiful."

On their own performance, one student commented how they "loved the rush of playing for a bigger audience, especially in such as nice auditorium." Kim Allen, another seventh grade student remarked that "The band festival was awesome. Hearing all those great bands makes you want to work harder!"

The VMS band was introduced as "probably the smallest school represented here today" by festival organizer, Mr. Charles Bolton. But being the smallest school did not hamper the band, they took the stage in

their newly purchased tuxedo shirts, ties, and cumberbunds. First year band teacher, Rob Izzett, observed that "the kids performed admirably, receiving many very positive comments from the two adjudicators." The kids were told that, "all the pieces are in place," and that they only had to sharpen the skills they have.

The middle and high school band and choirs will be putting on their annual Spring Concert on Wednesday, April 4. This event is free to the public.

The high school band will be traveling to the annual Band Festival on April 6. A joint performance of the Warner Pacific College Wind Ensemble and the Vernonia High School Wind Ensemble will take place in the Washington Grade School gymnasium on Thursday, April 19 at 7:30 p.m.



The Vernonia Middle School band with band teacher, Rob Izzett, before their performance in a band festival on February 23, at Warner Pacific College in Portland.

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