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# What happens at Murchison doesn't stay at Murchison



Murchison band students gear up for the school year at band camp. Front row trumpets left to right: Otto Klahn, Evan Boaz, John Howard, Jennifer Scheuer, Garrett, Vander Stoep, Hallie Green, Olivia Hughes, Coral Lookerman, Natalie, Hayhurst and Christina Briceno. Back row tubas left to right: Grant Giles, Ross Newman, Dylan Saegart, Parker Farrell and Rob Dempwolf. Photo by Cathy Purdy.

While the Anderson Trojan Band has been hard at work preparing their contest and halftime shows, Murchison's seventh and eighth grade band students held their own band camp. MMS band directors Dr. Cynthia Houston, Whitney Crowley and Jeff Corneille spent the time with their students getting everyone back into "shape" and preparing music to play in the stands during their school's football games.

"It's a chance to reconnect with their friends and ease back into school life, but more importantly, it gets us ready for the year," said Houston. "We can accomplish more during the school-day rehearsals just by having this head start."

MMS students spent one day of their camp visiting Anderson's band camp attending rehearsal, seeing part of the contest show, learning a marching fundamental or two and closing

the day with a combined pizza party.

"This is the second year we have invited MMS to come to a marching rehearsal. It's a great recruiting tool since most of these students will be attending our band camp and marching with us in the next year or two, so it is a chance for them to sample what we do," said Anderson Director Ryan Zysk. "Knowing some of what to expect takes a little of the anxiety away and gets the students looking forward to it."

And it's never too early to get adjusted. Freshman percussionists from MMS spent four weeks at AHS during the spring semester of their eighth grade year learning to march with heavy equipment and learning to play cadences together. By the end of the school year, students were assigned places in the Pit or Battery so they could learn their music over the sum-

mer with the rest of the band.

Shannon Gill, assistant band director and percussion specialist, said "Our percussion section must play as one unit. It's important that we see the eighth graders in the spring so that they are ready to go when band camp starts."

It won't stop here, because during football season MMS eighth graders will attend an Anderson football game as guests of the AHS Band, sitting with them in the stands, playing music together and experiencing Friday night football. "It's a really great experience for our students to be able to see what they have to look forward to, to see why they are practicing nightly and repeating those scales and other exercises over and over. They actually get to see and hear the results and know that it's a reachable goal in the pretty near future," Corneille said.