

MARCHING TO A NEW BEAT

vibraphone player wyatt giefing (8), flute player hannah ruden (8) and color guard member ari hardy (7) win the state championship as part of the high school marching band

Q: Why did you join marching band?

A: (Giefing): I don't know, it just sounded cool. (Hardy): One of my mom's best friend's daughters did color guard, so I worked on it and really liked it. She let me use her flags. (Ruden): I just decided that I was interested, showed up to the call out meeting, heard the music and decided I wanted to do that.

Q: What is it like playing in a high school band?

A: (Giefing): A little bit of stress and a little bit of happiness. It's really not as bad as it sounds, but don't get me wrong, Waking up at 2 a.m. is never fun. (Hardy): It's fun because you get to experience more things before you get to the high school. You'll know more people, so it's not extremely awkward once you get there. (Ruden): Chaotic. You have to struggle with school and getting all your music memorized and all the charts.

Q: Did being younger give you any advantages or disadvantages?

A: (Giefing): Maybe a little disadvantage

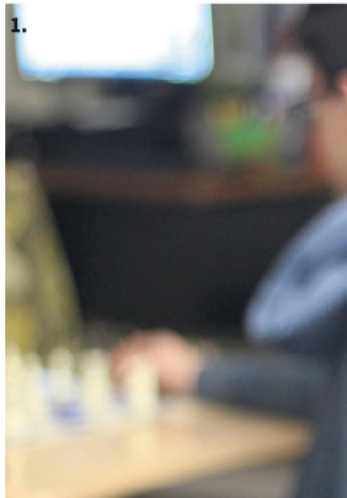
of knowing time or what's needed, but not really. (Hardy): Our band director always thought I was either an eighth grader or a freshman so that was good. But I wasn't able to do as many things because we weren't as advanced.

Q: How did you feel during the championship performance?

A: (Giefing): It was fun, but I was worried about not hitting the last note. (Hardy): I was especially stressed out. I messed up a lot of times but I got through it. I didn't want to drop the flag tosses. I was really proud of the beginning parts like the swing flag, and because I memorized that entire thing, without messing up a lot.

Q: What were your thoughts when it was announced that you won the state championship?

A: (Giefing): I was not expecting to win, but when we did, I thought "I'm the best; they suck." (Hardy): I was not exactly expecting to win because there were a lot of new people. So I was extra surprised that we won, and it was awesome. (Ruden): I thought we were going to win. I got really excited when it was announced, but we weren't allowed to react. I was super excited, but struggled to hide the smile.



1.GETTING INTO THE GAME. On Dec. 2, Vincent Koot (8) analyzes his position on the board. He was deep in thought, planning his next move. "My advice is to think about what pieces matter most to you, what pieces matter most to your opponent, and see how you can take that piece that matters to your opponent out of the solution," Koot said. *Photo by K. BOLDUC*

2.FIRST-TIME TEACHER. At the club's first meeting on Nov. 4, Carlin Echelmeier (8), Catherine Dehmer (8) and Elle Fischer (8) discuss new strategies. Echelmeier was a newcomer to chess, so Dehmer offered to teach her. "I taught her how to play chess and what each of the pieces did," Dehmer said. "I had never taught before, but she picked it up kind of quickly." *Photo by K. BOLDUC*

3.CHESS AND CHILL. On the morning of Dec. 2, Carlin Echelmeier (8) and her fellow players take a break to grab some Dunkin' Donuts and discuss strategies. Every week, the club ate donuts from a different shop. "We wrote a survey at the beginning about what donuts we like," Echelmeier said. "There's just a variety. There's some Christmas donuts, there's just glazed and chocolate. Dunkin' Donuts is always my favorite." *Photo by K. BOLDUC*

4.PLAY TO WIN. In Room W501, Gabriel Classick (7) and Eli LaRosa (8) start their first match. Both experienced chess players, Classick and LaRosa played each other for the first time. "I was thinking of my next move," Classick said. "It can be kind of risky because sometimes you have to trade a queen for a rook, and it's sometimes bad." *Photo by K. BOLDUC*

5.WORDS OF ADVICE. In the middle of a play between William Chambley (8) and Ben Stone (8), ChessNuts Coach Ben Donathen checks on the players. Coach Jackie Donathen advised players during their individual matches. "I was in check and coach was helping me get out of it," Stone said. "We're learning different things you can do in a chess match." *Photo by K. BOLDUC*

PIECES AND PASTRIES

the new chessnuts club brings together the popular game and donuts

Find a seat, pick up a donut, play chess, shake hands, repeat. Members of Jackie Donathan's ChessNuts club did this every other Thursday morning. As a brand new club, it was a welcome addition for chess and donut lovers alike.

"I was excited that there was a chess club at the school because there hadn't been one in the years before," Quinn Ferguson (8) said. "I just wanted to learn how to play the game a little better. I like how while it's still competitive, it's very casual, and you get to have fun with it."

The players were brought together by their experience with the game or lack thereof.

"I wasn't familiar with chess, so this was actually my first time playing it," club member Madelyn Henley (8) said. "I joined it because the club gives you a chance to learn something new. It's always good to learn new things, especially at the school."

Besides chess, it offered a place to have an early morning snack with classmates.

"I would like to learn some new strategy, but I'm really there just to have fun thanks to my friends," Silas Hendrix (7) said. "Next to the donuts, just hanging out and chilling is my favorite part."



guitar

Pro: The best thing about guitar is learning notes and chords.
- Zahara Ali (7)

Con: At the start, your fingers hurt, but after a bit you get used to it.
- Luis Lopez (7)

drums

Pro: There are a lot of different types of drums.
- Macy Brown (7)

Con: They are really loud. Because everyone is doing it, you can't really tell what you are doing.
- Abbey Wiggins (7)

FINDING THE GROOVE

the pros and cons of the instruments in music exploration

NEW PATHS

the first generation of the seventh grade pathfinders team does things differently

"The Pathfinders are a team where we're specifically gearing our lessons. We have some training as teachers to help students who speak English as their second language. We have about 15 to 25 of students in that range. My lessons have things like more visual effects."
- Wellness teacher Mr. Todd Hagemeyer

"I feel like we've just known it to be ours. It's not really different for us because we haven't really experienced anything else. I mean I love my team. I love all my teachers, and most of my friends are on my team too."
- Ava Cook (7)

"It's just like we're the guinea pigs, so we get to be the first to do everything."
- Social Studies teacher Mrs. Christine Shepard

"I've started three teams: the Trailblazers, the Stingrays and the Pathfinders. The change was definitely an adjustment because I teach very different topics. Our team has tried to start new things. We have planned on going to Kings Island this summer with the Pathfinder team, so that's something new that they can enjoy."
- Social Studies teacher Mrs. Christine Shepard



I LIKE TO

"My dogs are my favorite family members because they are fun to be around."
ryan acklin (8)

"My favorite place for vacation is probably any beach."
kian moainie (8)

"Softball is my favorite sport because it's a really good way to connect with people on the team, and it's really competitive."
annika lawrence (8)

"My favorite TV show is 'Stranger Things' because it is always very interesting."
abby harrington (7)

"Because he's in 'Pirates of the Caribbean' my favorite celebrity is Johnny Depp."
sawyer bushur (7)

"My favorite holiday is Christmas because of the songs. They are fire."
mani johnson (8)