

Greenwood Marching Woodmen and Irish Guard

Alumni Newsletter



The Tradition Marches On

What's In This Newsletter

Hello Alumni!
 Message From Mr. Aylsworth
 Box Mom's Competition Cards—2022
 A Tribute to David VanVeld
 The Story Behind...The New Art Work in the Band Room
 Jon Heilman—The Royal Historian of Oz
 Thank You!

Hello Alumni!

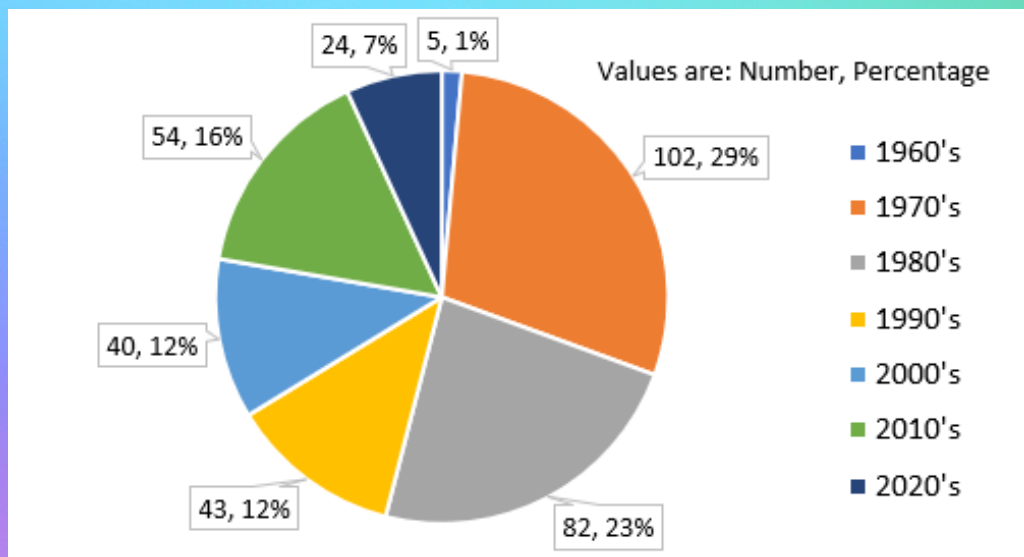


Dear Alumni,

This April I will hold a garage sale to benefit the Greenwood Band program. All money that is raised will be donated to the Greenwood Band Parent Organization. We did this last year and raised \$4201. As you declutter, please consider donating your items to this cause. I will be collecting things from now through the end of March and I will be happy to come to your house to pick up the items. Feel free to text me at 317-752-2080 or send an email to gaylagunn1977@gmail.com Thank you so much for your help!

At this time, we have 350 registered alumni. The graph to the right shows our numbers by graduation decade. Alumni can add their membership at any time!

Gayla Gunn, Class of 1977





Greetings and Happy New Year GMWIG alumni! 2022 was a great year for Greenwood Bands. There was growth, success, and improvement on all fronts. However, there was also continued transition and change. By the end of first semester 2022, all three director positions will have experienced change. Mr. Aylsworth assumed the role of head director after Mr. Werne resigned in 2021. Mr. Matthews took over for Mr. Fletcher this year. Mr. Kalugyer just announced his retirement in December and stepped down at the end of last semester. We are currently searching for a new Greenwood Middle School Director. Combine that with the change in design team, guard staff, and percussion staff and you can easily see that we are in the process of rebuilding stability and consistency. It has been a challenging three year stretch for the program.

However, I do believe we have rounded the corner. We are starting to see some great results. The marching band concluded the season with a top five placement. The scores at the top were extremely close. We were highly competitive all year and the students had much better rehearsal etiquette and work ethic.

The winter guard program has expanded to three guards (Varsity/Open Class, JV/Reg. A Class, and Middle School/Cadet Class). There were 45 students signed up for the three guards when the season started. Coach Markell Allen, Assistant Ian Hehr, and their staff have done a tremendous job of generating excitement and promoting excellence. We are very excited about their potential. Coach Allen was also recently hired as a Color Guard Designer and Choreographer by the Cavaliers Drum & Bugle Corp. He also is on staff with WGI perennial favorite, The Pride of Cincinnati.

Winter percussion is in full swing and the ensemble has increased in size to thirty members. Their winter show is titled, "Any Where The Wind Blows" and includes classic rock melodies from Kansas' "Dust in the Wind" and Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody". Percussion Directors Travis Beck and Eric Zielsdorf are molding our growing percussion section into a state contender.

I would like to publicly thank Mr. Sutton, Mr. Morse, Mr. Fletcher, Mr. Kalugyer, and Ms. Knartzer for all of their help and support. They have been wonderful resources during this transition period. In addition, thank you to all of the alumni, band boosters, parents, and students that have helped us navigate the last year and a half. One thing that has not changed are the values that we hold dear. Students are working hard and striving for success. I congratulate everyone for making sure the program survived and thrived during COVID-19 and all of the transition.

We now move our focus to growth and the future. Our immediate goal is to bring back the private lesson program. We are currently searching for private lesson teachers on all instruments. If you or someone you know would be interested in teaching private lessons, please contact the band department. The private lesson program was paused during the pandemic.

Again, thank you for all of your support! Stay tuned for additional information by following our Facebook page, website, and other social media channels. Happy New Year and best wishes for 2023.

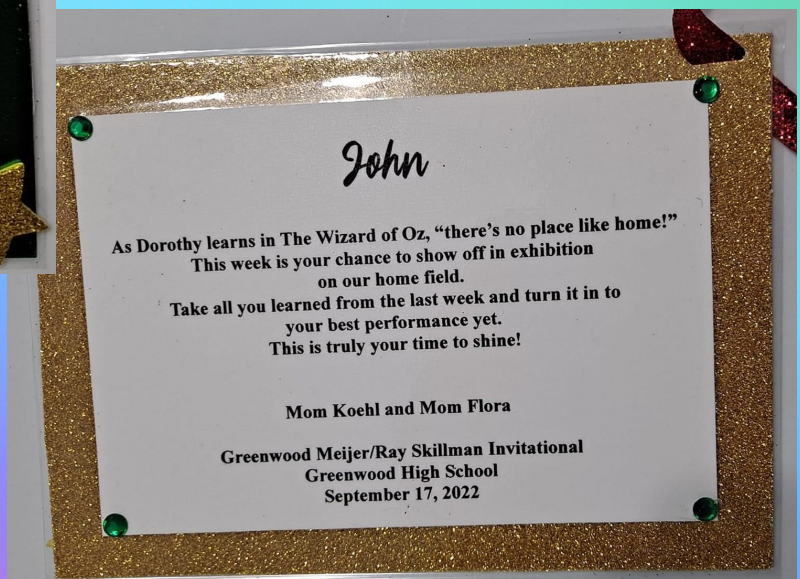
Luke Aylsworth
Director of Bands
Greenwood Community High School

Box Moms' Competition Cards— Gathering Green 2022

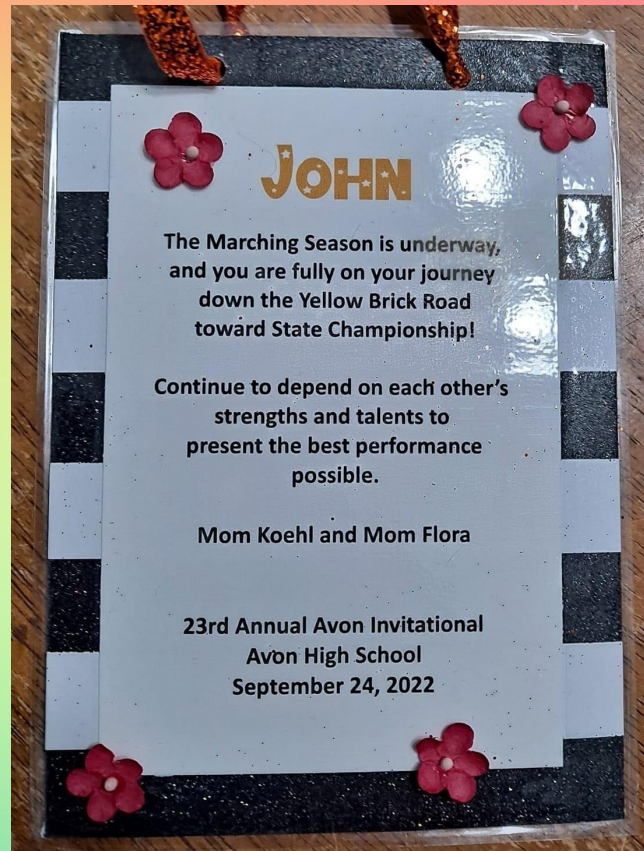
Brownsburg



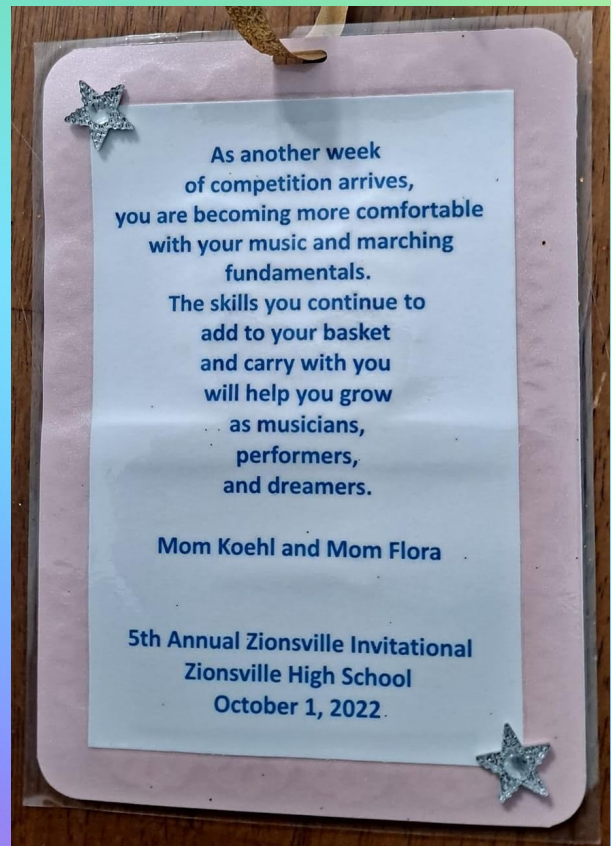
Greenwood



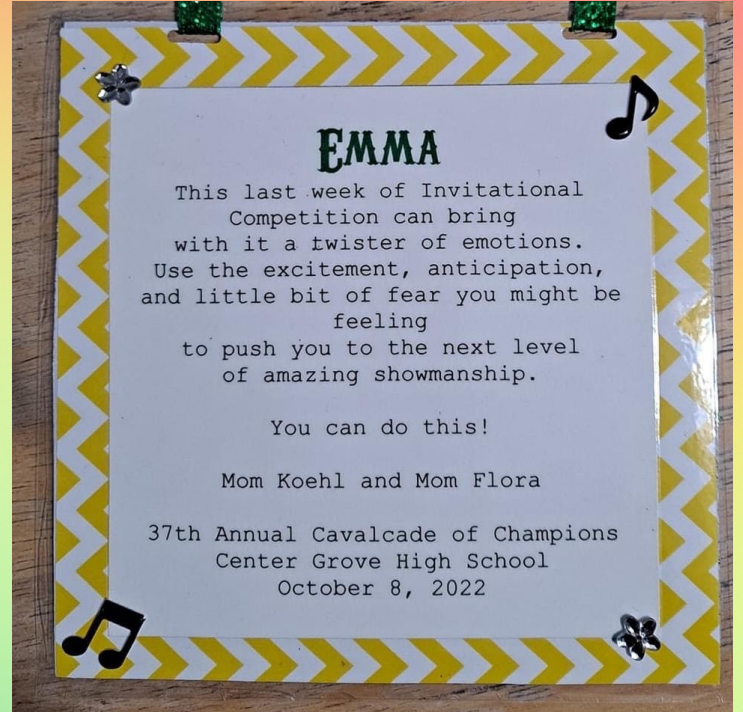
Avon



Zionsville



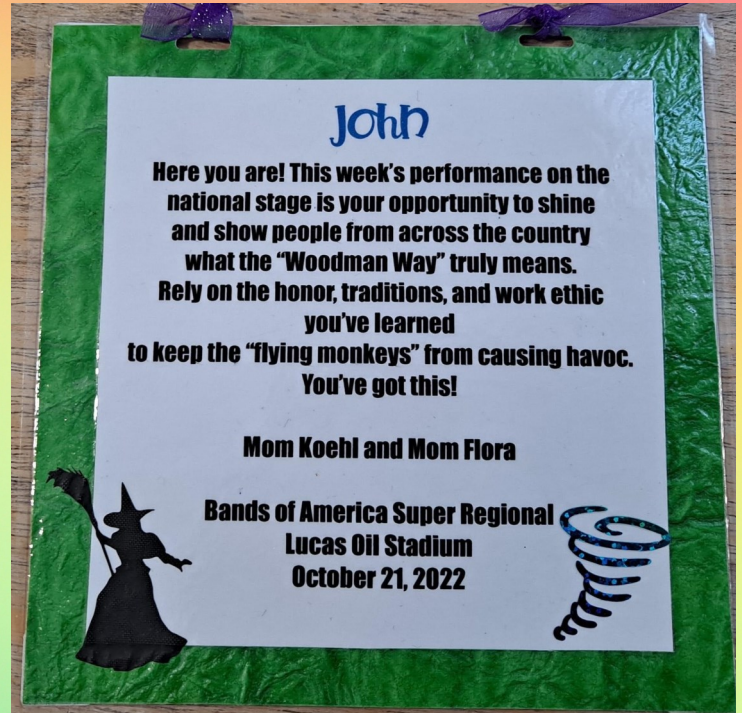
Center Grove



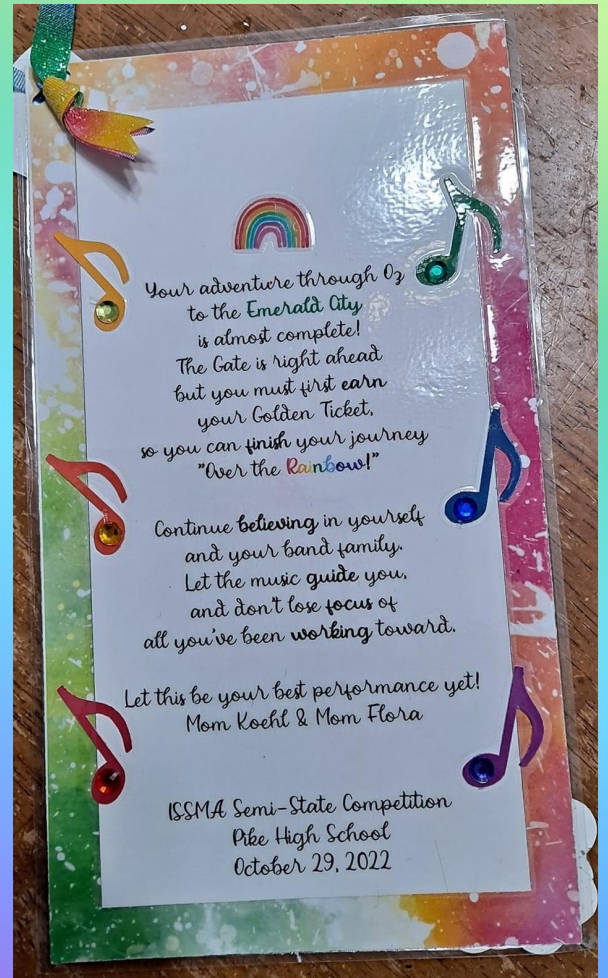
ISSMA Regionals



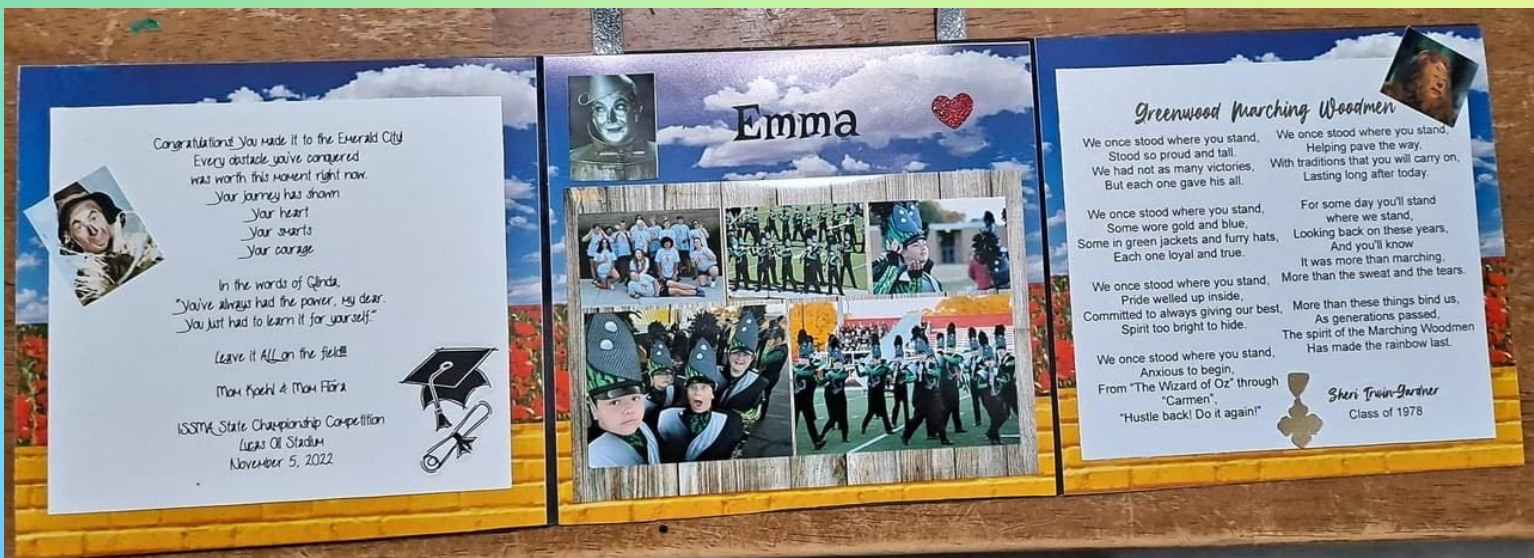
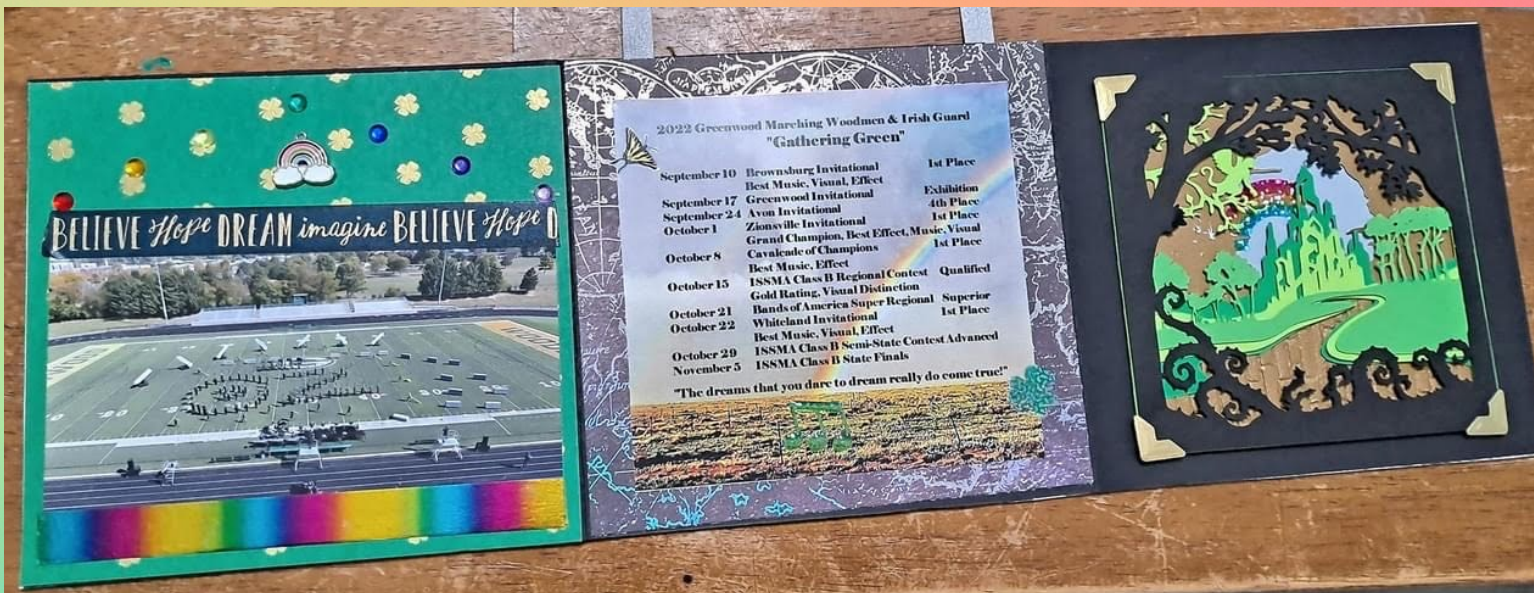
BOA/Whiteland



ISSMA Semi-State



ISSMA State Finals



A Tribute to David VanVeld

Dave VanVeld (affectionately know as “Mr. V”) was my band and music teacher from 1966 till he moved to Florida at the end of the 1973 school year.

I learned so much from him, music especially, but also about faith and life, leadership and forgiveness. I had lost touch with Dave over the years, but on a lark in 2011 I found where he had retired from the Naples Florida school system as an administrator. The folks at the school told me he had retired “to a small town in North Georgia called Blue Ridge”. My wife and I own a vacation home there. Dave was in the phone book and we arranged to meet. I told him how deeply he’d impacted me, and told him that many of my classmates shared that same sentiment. I asked him if he’d be ok if I coordinated a reunion. He was expecting a few folks, and was overwhelmed with the response. Bandmates came from California, Colorado, Indiana, Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee. Many with their spouses and children. The expressions of love and affection, of gratitude and of appreciation spoke volumes to the impact Dave had on us. We shared so many great memories. Band for us under his tutelage was a crucible for adult life. Everyone stayed the weekend and on Sunday we all went to Dave’s church and worshipped, then took him to lunch. It was a truly memorable weekend.

Those expressions touched Dave for the remainder of his life. Every time Dave and I talked afterwards, and even after his passing with his wife, the words were always the same-that his gratitude for our efforts was boundless.

Shortly after the reunion Dave was diagnosed with prostate cancer, and to be nearer his children, and for better health care Dave and his wife moved to an Atlanta suburb. A few of us saw him a couple more times, and were blessed to meet his family, this before he passed peacefully with his family around him in 2020 at the age of 83.

I share those feelings that were expressed so often, and so sincerely by the folks who came or wrote, and am ever pleased that I was able to express my affection for him before he passed. Perhaps God does work in mysterious ways.

This I know-educators shape our lives, and the teachers and music teachers, choir directors, the coaches and counselors, all the educators from our youth-deserve to be thanked. Time is fleeting. Find them and give them the thanks and the honor they deserve. Send them a note or call them. They’ll appreciate knowing they made a difference in your life.

Dan Mattox, Class of 1974.



First row L-R: Dennis Young ('74), Dan Mattox ('74), Luann Hacker ('74), Dave VanVeld, Beth Buchanan ('74), Rocky Rhodes ('72), Vic Ramsey ('72); **Second row L-R:** Rex Kincaid ('74), David Youmans ('74); **Back Row L-R:** Susan Polley ('74), Paul Warner ('74), David Mattox ('70), John Fouts.

The Story Behind...The New Art Work in the Band Room



What great joy it gives alumni to see the excellence of the Greenwood High School Band program continuing on here in 2023!

I got to thinking about origin stories recently when a movie station on my streaming TV source was showing the first movie in the Spiderman series - the one starring Tobey Maguire. Here we see the Spiderman story unfold from its humble beginnings and Peter Parker harnessing his new powers as he fulfills a new purpose-filled life and creating a legacy in 'superpower' history. Anyone with the band program from around 1973 will most likely not be able to hear the band warming up at a competition playing Somewhere Over the Rainbow without getting a tear in their eye. So, with that in mind, here is my origin story with the Greenwood Band.

In my childhood, my next door neighbor was former Greenwood band director David Van Veld. I remember as a kid hanging around in my back yard so I could spy on some of the high school kids marching around in his back yard probably working on drill ideas. And just like that occasional mythic summer visitation of the magical ice cream truck in my neighborhood announcing its arrival with a song, so too, did the WHOLE high school band march from the old high school building on Meridian Street - now the Greenwood Fieldhouse - right down my street past my house (and the director's) playing a song! For a young wide-eyed kid, it was all so grown up and well, magical.

Mr. Van Veld left after my freshman year, and suddenly Greenwood had a new band director: Herman Knoll. My Freshman year, Greenwood had placed 34th at the Indiana State Fair Band Day and there was great anticipation for what could happen that summer with our new director.

With Mr. Knoll's arrival he ushered in a new marching style inspired by drum corps. Gone were the girls in white go-go boots holding pompons, replaced now with a corps wearing equestrian style black boots and sporting newly designed flags. Change is hard, and I am sure there was some grumbling, but I recall the wise words of my saxophone sectional leader Beth Buchanan: 'Give it time. This all may turn out to be really good.' And it WAS good. Herman Knoll brought with him a show created for Martinsville High School - where he had just left, and who had place 5th the previous year at the State Fair Band Day - and for the first time in our history, we were playing original music charts created for the show by an arranger! The show featured some music from the classic film the Wizard of Oz, and at the end of the show, in the center of the band formation, a bass drum was turned on its side, and Cynthia Talkovic Sauer putting on a white tulle skirt as Glinda the Good Witch, stood on the rim of the drum, and while she was lifted into the air waving a silver wand, the band played Somewhere Over the Rainbow!

The motivational mantra that whole summer had been "If you want to be assured a place in the top 16 bands with a chance to perform for a second time in the evening competition, you had better work as if you will be one of the top 10 bands. We placed 10th that year, and it is difficult to describe the delirious joy of this accomplishment.

A drawing that I did in 1975 - created along with band members Janelle (Bartley) Cole and Marjorie (Williams) Haynes Greer - has been rolled up under my bed in my New York City apartment for the past 48 years. The drawing references the design style of Heinz Edlmann and his cover art for the Beatles Yellow Submarine album. Already in 1975, we could see the future legacy unfolding, so believing that this program would continue on well past our own time with the band, we have drawn faceless band members floating under a rainbow and marching on a yellow brick 'banana peel skin' road. Director Herman Knoll parachutes by with a megaphone in hand, and the Band Parents are celebrated with their own aptly labeled dirigible. The ladder on the side of the drawing marks our intended ascendancy to indeed become the 'Top Banana' band! This drawing was presented to Mr. Aylsworth to welcome him to the Greenwood program where he will most assuredly usher in the next glory years for the band.

I was a young kid watching magical grown up people march in the band, and I dreamed of being in that band...and then of becoming a drum major for that band....and of writing shows for that band...and it all became true. For all of our current band members, take a look at this drawing in the band room and then reflect on this origin story as you play Somewhere Over the Rainbow. And for any alumni, pause and recall a very tender-hearted memory of our shared beginning. Yes, dreams - the dreams that you dare to dream - well, just like the song lyric says, they really do come true.

Eric Scott Kincaid, Class of 1976

The New Art Work



Jon Heilman, The Royal Historian of Oz



My first "real" exposure to high school marching band was in September of 2013. Both of my children went completely through the Greenwood music program from middle school to senior. That September was my son's very first invitational competition. As a newbie band parent, I didn't know what to expect. Maybe something akin to the marching bands I had seen in various parades? But this was much more than that. The music! The movement! The precision! I was hooked!

As a graphic designer, I soon inherited the job of producing the printed program books for the band's yearly concerts and invitationals. That first season was quite a ride and culminated in an ISSMA state championship with the show "After the Fall."

That season I also picked up little hints from fellow band parents about the traditions and history of the Marching Woodmen. But, I also heard many conflicting tales. I became very curious about the history of the band program and started looking for more info.

The following season, I took on the responsibility of maintaining the Marching Woodmen website and reworking it to include a blog. It was then that I thought I could write a few blog posts about the history of the band program. I began research at the Johnson County Museum of History. I went through their digital and printed archives as well as newspaper microfilm. That was the modest beginnings on what would become a multi-year project that is not yet complete.

The widening scope of the project was facilitated by former Greenwood director Jon Sutton. We had swapped a few emails about band history when he asked if I had seen the upstairs storage room at the school. I had not and he offered to show me. He led me upstairs to where all the remaining history of the band program was kept. Most intriguing were the rows of filing cabinets stuffed full with photos, records, ISSMA documents, scrapbooks, programs and more. This was not going to be a small project.

I took the info home one drawer at a time. I sorted, read, scanned and transcribed info for nearly two years. It was then that I decided to work chronologically and I published my first post in 2016. Six years later and I've finished post #9. The series covers the band's history from 1936 to 1990, with more to come.

I never entered into this project with the thought of any benefit to myself, other than to satisfy my curiosity. But, meeting and collaborating with former Greenwood band members and staff has been more rewarding than I could have imagined. I have interviewed Herman Knoll, Dan Rice and Jon Sutton. I have received encouragement, memories and photos from past Marching Woodmen and I look forward to meeting many more as I move through the remaining decades.

In 2019, Greenwood Band Director John Morse submitted this project as a candidate for the Music For All Advocacy in Action National Award. And, we won! The tradition marches on...

Jon Heilman

Jon Heilman's national award winning History of the Greenwood Marching Woodmen can be found at:

<https://ghsband.org/category/history/>



Thank You!

Julie Lash
Andrew Short
Luke Aylsworth
Nita Koehl
Dan Mattox
Eric Scott Kincaid
Jon Heilman

