

# MT. VERNON Sentinel

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Sentinel Photo/DAVID BELCHER

**AT THE HOP** — Mt. Vernon Township High School Future Business Leaders of America officers pose with a banner advertising a FBLA-sponsored Back to School Hop from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday at L Building. MVTHS FBLA officers include, FROM LEFT, Ashley Meritt, secretary; Blake Fields, vice president; Taylor Morgan, historian; Lamanda Bean, treasurer; and Mallory Adams, president. Julie Hayes and Rob Pipher, MVTHS business teachers, serve as the chapter co-advisers.

## MVTHS FBLA membership draws students with varied interests

**BY DAVID BELCHER**

MT. VERNON LIFESTYLES EDITOR

**MT. VERNON** — Despite what the name might imply, being a business student — or even aspiring to a business career — is not necessary to be a member of Future Business Leaders of America.

The sole requirement to join the Mt. Vernon Township High School FBLA Chapter is a desire to join, according to Julie Hayes, MVTHS business teacher and co-FBLA sponsor.

Even if a student's eventual occupation is not directly in business, Hayes said the world of business touches everyone.

As a fundraiser and as a tool to recruit members, the MVTHS FBLA Chapter is sponsoring a back to school hop from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednes-

day at L Building. She said Cosmo T will be the DJ. Admission is nominal plus a student ID.

Hayes explained FBLA can be used to teach skills, which are not taught in the classroom, such as leadership and teamwork. Also, she said, the students form bonds of friendship with their fellow FBLA members.

FBLA offers opportunities for growth in a wide range of areas. FBLA members can compete in 50 events in regional and state conferences in such areas as accounting I, accounting II, business procedures, sports management, word processing, public speaking and parliamentary procedure.

Last April, six MVTHS FBLA students placed at the state FBLA Conference in

Decatur:

- **Third-place team Parliamentary Procedure** — Dakota Hanson, Mallory Adams, Ashley Meritt and Daniel Morrison;

- **Sixth-place Individual Parliamentary Procedure** — Hanson;

- **Eighth-place Individual Parliamentary Procedure** — Adams;

- **Ninth-place Individual Parliamentary Procedure** — Meritt;

- **Ninth-place Accounting II** — Taylor Morgan;

- **and 10th-place Business Procedures** — Alex Bronson.

"We have a really great group of students. We always have fun," President Adams said.

"We all work well together," Treasurer Lamanda Bean said.

"We bring different pieces to the table," Secre-

tary Meritt said, adding the chapter is a collection of unique personalities who work together.

**2009-10 MVTHS FBLA officers include:**

- **President** — Adams;
- **Vice President** — Blake Fields;
- **Secretary** — Meritt;
- **Treasurer** — Bean;
- **and Historian** — Morgan.

The school's FBLA membership has monthly meetings — the officers meet more frequently. Dues are \$20, however, Hayes said some of that money will go to competition at regional and state conferences.

FBLA is the largest student group in the nation, Hayes said. Also, the group's main charity is the March of Dimes.

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