



News

Students give it all they got

[Print Page](#)

Performers compete in talent show

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Although Myriah Stallsmith now goes to Oak Hill High School, she went back to her former school in Marion to check out a talent show Friday night. She said she was looking forward to watching students dance and sing.

"My friends brought me out here, pretty much," she said. "They asked me to come, and I told my best friend I would."

Marion High School hosted Marion's Got Talent in the F. Ritchie Walton Performing Arts Center. The event Friday night, featuring 15 performances by students, included singers, dancers and even a contortionist.

Freshman Ashley Folley said her stomach was a little iffy before the show, but she was OK. She sang Popular from the musical *Wicked*.

"It's just one of my favorite songs," she said. "(I'm looking forward to) singing in front of people and showing people what I got."

Freshman Brooke Bartrum said she was very nervous before the show.

"I don't want to mess up," she said. "I'm afraid I'll mess up and forget the words."

Bartrum was singing Tim McGraw by Taylor Swift.

"I really don't care if I win or not," she said. "I just want to have fun and be with my friends."

Junior Katie Munn said she was most looking forward to watching her friend Kileigh Williams tap dance.

"She's pretty amazing," she said. "She's in Tap Kids, which goes around the world, so she's pretty good."

Munn was the emcee for the evening, along with senior Taylor Hamilton.

John Butcher, one of five people who were judging the competition, said he'd be looking for unique, outstanding and memorable performances. He said he wouldn't be like American Idol's Simon Cowell, though.

"I don't think we're going to say anything bad," he said before the show began.

Butcher said he offered some tips to the contestants during dress rehearsal the night before.

"I'm looking forward to seeing how they step it up tonight from last night," he said. "There's a lot of talent, not just at Marion High School, but in Grant County."

Talent show director Vicky Malooley said the night was going well and attendance was higher than she expected.



showing skills — Kora Edwards, right, and Amanda Lehman, perform a duet Friday night during Marion's Got Talent at the Richie Walton Center Marion High School. Elaine Moore / emoore@chronicle-tribune.com

"They're all really great," she said. "They're all bringing their A game. The judges will have their work cut out for them."

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