

The vocal department had a busy December preparing for winter concerts in both the elementary and the high school. The high school singers also took part in a community service project on Dec. 11th by caroling at both the Sheffield and Rockwell Care Centers and singing for the businesses in Thornton during their annual business open house. Hopefully many of you were able to join us for the concerts &/or some caroling and we helped to make your holidays a little bit more festive!

In January, we find ourselves busy in the high school with two more festivals. January 10th and 11th will find us at the Dorian Vocal Festival in Decorah. This festival involves approximately 1250 singers from schools throughout the state of Iowa as well as surrounding states. It is one of the largest (if not THE largest) festival choirs in the nation. It is open to juniors and seniors only. Members of the Luther College faculty rehearse with the singers on Sunday afternoon and evening and again all day Monday and then there is a festival concert Monday evening. From the West Fork singers that applied, the college chose the following to attend: Holly Hejlik, Faith Lau, Caitlin Retz, and Sierra Thomas—all altos. Last year our festival experience was cut short due to bad weather and we had to return early. We hope the weather cooperates better this year.

The other festival will be on Saturday, January 23rd, at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. This festival choir is smaller in size and has always been a great festival experience as well. The participants rehearse all day on Saturday and then a concert is given Saturday evening. Several West Fork singers applied and those chosen by the college are: McKenna Robinson, Brittany Skibbe, Michelle Stille—sopranos; Caitlin Retz, Katie Snow, Sierra Thomas—altos. There is also a speech contest on this date as well as several basketball games, so it is a very busy day for West Fork.

In January, the elementary students will have fun learning all kinds of new things in music class. The Kindergarten will work on their first music notes—the names, what they look like, and how to count them. The first grade will be learning about the treble clef staff and the names of the lines and spaces on the staff, while the second grade will be conquering the bass clef staff. And the third grade will learn about the grand staff and how to read ledger lines. So as you can see, there is a lot going on for the K-3 students as well.

H.S. VOCAL IMPORTANT DATES—2009-2010

* means the performance is **REQUIRED**

JANUARY:

Sun. & Mon., Jan. 10th & 11th—Dorian Vocal Festival at Luther College in Decorah
Sat., Jan. 23rd—Meistersinger Vocal Festival at Wartburg College in Waverly

FEBRUARY:

Sat., Feb. 13th—Piano Festival

MARCH:

***THURSDAY, MARCH 4th—POPS CONCERT—BAND and VOCAL**

Fri., March 5th—Simon Estes Concert in Hampton

Sat., March 20th—VIP Community Variety Show

APRIL:

Sat., April 10th—State Small Group Music Contest

MAY:

Tues., May 4th—SCMT Elementary Spring Concert

***SATURDAY, MAY 8th—STATE LARGE GROUP MUSIC CONTEST**

***TUESDAY, MAY 18th—FINE ARTS NIGHT**

Wed., May 19th—Baccalaureate (small group)

Sun., May 23rd—Graduation (small group)