

Vocal Music—Sheffield Campus

The vocal department had a busy December preparing for winter concerts in both the elementary and the high school, and the weather was nice so all concerts took place as scheduled! That was not the case the year before. The high school singers also took part in a community service project on Dec. 9th by caroling at both the Sheffield and Rockwell Care Centers, the Sheffield Assisted Living facility, and singing for the businesses in Thornton during their annual business open houses. And Jacee Arbegast, Nicole Helmers, Tori Hurley, Casey Schuster, Brittany Starr, Celeste Staudt, Sydney Staudt, Michelle Stille, and Ayla Stumpf performed at the Sheffield Lion's Club Christmas Party in early December.

In January, we find ourselves busy in the high school with two more festivals. January 8th and 9th will find us at the Dorian Vocal Festival at Luther College 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: Tyler Conlon, Evan Meester, Matt Retz, McKenna Robinson, and Michelle Stille.

The other festival will be on Saturday, January 14th, 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. A large number of West Fork singers were interested and applied. Those chosen by the college are: RaeAnna Eastman, McKenna Robinson, Michelle Stille, Ayla Stumpf, Morgan Wood—sopranos; Krista Cordes, Samantha Hanig, Tori Hurley—altos; Tyler Conlon, Evan Meester, Matt Retz, Vaughn Young—basses. The singers will have the special bonus of working with Simon Estes during the day and he will also be part of the evening concert, along with several of the ensembles from Wartburg.

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 continue work on the bass clef staff as well as a few new terms. 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—2011-2012

* means the performance is **REQUIRED**

JANUARY:

Sun. & Mon., Jan. 8th & 9th—Dorian Vocal Festival at Luther College in Decorah
Sat., Jan. 14th—Meistersinger Vocal Festival at Wartburg College in Waverly

FEBRUARY:

Sun., Feb. 19th—WF Music Boosters Community Variety Show

MARCH:

***THURSDAY, MARCH 1st—POPS CONCERT—BAND and VOCAL**

Fri., March 9th—Young Performing Artists presentation/Franklin Co. Arts Council

Sat., March 31st—State Small Group Music Contest

APRIL:

PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE

MAY:

Tues., May 1st—Sheffield K-3 Elementary Spring Concert

***SATURDAY, MAY 5th—STATE LARGE GROUP MUSIC CONTEST**

***TUESDAY, MAY 8th—FINE ARTS NIGHT**

Wed., May 9th—Baccalaureate (small group)

Sun., May 13th—Graduation (small group)

JUNE:

New York Trip—June 2nd-6th