



The Beeter Bulletin



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Sanders Wins County Spelling Bee

On February 13, twenty-seven spellers from across Blaine County converged on Chinook High School's Lloyd Sweet Auditorium for the Blaine County Spelling Bee. After six rounds, Samson Sanders, an eighth grader at Chinook Junior High School (CJHS), was declared the champion, and Quin Billmayer, another CJHS eighth grader, had taken second place, designating her as the alternate.

Students from Chinook, Zurich, Harlem, Hays/Lodgepole, and Turner participated in Tuesday's competition. The Bee went six rounds after which two spellers were left standing: Billmayer and Sanders, who spelled the winning word, *adversaria*. With this win, Sanders will be competing in his second State Bee. Last year, he placed fourth at the State Spelling Bee.

When asked if he enjoyed the spelling bees, Sanders replied that he "loves them." He went on to say this is his last year because next year he will be a high school freshman.

For her part, Billmayer was surprised by her win, saying, "I didn't expect that at all." However, she stated that she would proudly serve if she was needed.

The 59th Annual Treasure State Spelling Bee will be held on Saturday, March 9, at 1:00 p.m. on the campus of Montana State University-Bozeman.

Sponsored in part by the Montana Television Network, the Treasure State

Spelling Bee is the final competition for determining which contestant will represent Montana at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.



Top spellers, Samson Sanders and Quin Billmayer won first and second place at the Blaine County Spelling Bee on February 13. This will be Sanders' second time representing Blaine County at the Treasure State Spelling Bee.



2024 HOBY Leadership Seminar Attendees

By Bailey Billmayer

Two sophomores were selected to represent Chinook High School at the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) Seminar this summer. School Counselor Fay Friede announced on February 5 that Bailey Billmayer and Carson Kelly will be Chinook's delegates.

"Normally there's a selection committee, but there were only two applicants this year, and they are perfect; I am thrilled they applied. I think they will both love the experience," Friede commented.

When asked about her feelings on the Montana HOBY Seminar, Friede stated, "I love the HOBY seminar. I've been able to observe small pieces of it over the years and have always been impressed with how every student is truly involved and included during the seminar. I've gotten feedback from roughly twenty students who have attended over the years, and though some were reluctant about whether they would actually like HOBY, every single person has had a positive experience. Each person seems to take away something different from HOBY, but it always seems to be significant and positive."

On June 6 through 9, Montana State University in Bozeman will be hosting the HOBY convention for sophomores across the state. The convention's vision is to inspire young people to be good leaders in their schools, homes, and communities.

HOBY's founder was Hugh O'Brian, an actor and television star who chose to use his fame and popularity for a good cause.

He utilized some of his earnings to benefit young people.

In 1958, HOBY was established to recognize and develop leadership capability in high school sophomores across the world. In 1969, O'Brian put together an awards



ceremony in order to recognize young actors and actresses at UCLA. Named the Hugh O'Brian Acting Awards, the ceremony, was held every year for 25 years.

"I'm excited about Bailey and Carson attending HOBY because they seem to be genuinely interested in the HOBY experience," said Friede, "Chinook High School benefits in a subtle way, as well. Whether delegates end up with increased leadership skills, community service ideas, or added self-confidence, all of that contributes to a positive school environment," she concluded.

Pep Club Hypes up the Student Section

By Falyne Cecrle

To help support winter athletes, the CHS Pep Club has been inviting fan participation with Theme Nights. The motive behind this program is to get students to show up and support the athletic teams.

Continued on page 3

Wanting more school spirit from the student section, the pep club used some of their funds to purchase supplies and props to hand out at games and get students more involved.

“The participation has shot way up since pep club has provided materials for the fans,” stated activity organizer and Pep Club President Hannah Schoen.

Some of the pep club’s favorite participant costumes have been Wylee Simenson’s wearing an Iron Man costume for Superhero Night and Quentin Edwards in his suit for *Beeters Mean Business*.

“The change in the number of people and their support affects how we play and how much energy we bring to the floor,” Schoen, who also plays center for the girls’ basketball team, explained.

Besides *Super Heroes* and *Beeters Mean Business*, some of the other past themes the pep club produced were Neon Night, Adam Sandler Night, Cowboy Night, and Pajama Night.

For the final theme, the pep club conjured up Black and Orange Night at the Factory. Fans showed their school spirit and supported the Beeters by wearing their black and orange apparel.

Taking on Double Duty

By RJ Engstrom

After the turn of the first semester, Ms. Shay Waldbillig dove-in headfirst and took over for Mr. Kendall Harwood’s classes of junior high science.

After the first few weeks in her new role, Ms. Waldbillig states: “I have been trying to keep the groove that the students had with Mr. Harwood without interrupting their momentum by changing up the routine.” She had previously been a student teacher under Mr. Harwood, so she “luckily” knew the way he ran his classroom.

With a longtime love for science, Ms. Waldbillig pursued a double major in college with both Secondary Science Education and Biology. She also obtained an Art Education minor in her final semesters.

Currently teaching Junior High Science and High School Art, Ms. Waldbillig says she enjoys the variation that comes with the new position, along with all the learning of names and faces. She is glad for the ability to teach both of the subjects she loves.

Spell It Out; Show Your Skill

By Ryley Hofeldt

Every year, students in grades four through eight compete in a school district spelling bee. The event begins in the classrooms with friendly competition to identify the top few spellers. Next, those spellers compete with all the winners at the District Spelling Bee in the Meadowlark Elementary School gym. The winners from the District Spelling Bee then advance to the Blaine County Spelling Bee.

Story continues on page 4



Chinook School District Spelling Bee Winners: Lillie Skoyen, January Jensen, Megan Siemens, Quin Billmayer, Thane Drugge, Sam Sanders, holding Bee Champion, Cynnloch Gibson; and Amos Billmayer advanced to the Blaine County Spelling Bee on February 13.

This year on January 31, winners from each grade, fourth through eighth, got together and competed in the District Spelling Bee. The top seven placers advanced to the county bee.

Gibson placed first in the District Spelling Bee followed by Sanders, who placed second. Both spellers have placed in previous years; Gibson in fifth grade won the District Spelling Bee. Sanders, however, placed fifth in the district, first at the county level, and then fourth at the State Spelling Bee last year.

Witness Amazing Discoveries

By Falyn Cecrle

Meadowlark Elementary School officials invite everyone to their Second Annual Science Fair on February 20 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the school's gymnasium. During this time, students' projects will be on display for the community to see.

Sixth grade students started their projects in January by selecting topics they were interested in, researching them, and then creating hypotheses for their experiments.

In the next stage, the young scientists present their ideas to two judges who decide the top three, and those students will advance to Great Falls on March 5 for regional competition.

Some projects include such scientific topics as a piston's function in a 2-stroke versus a 4-stroke engine, a replication of the lung's functions, effects of Coca-Cola and different things it can be used for, and the differences in toothpastes. "They are all pretty interesting," explains Sixth Grade Teacher Alicia Noel.

During the Science Fair, refreshments will be available in the lobby to all viewers.

Junior High Catastrophe

By Ryley Hofeldt

After their first ski trip was canceled due to frigid temperatures, junior high students travelled to Showdown for a day of skiing. They left early in the morning of January 31, getting breakfast at McDonalds on the way. The trip took up a school day, but it counts as a physical education day.

When arriving at the ski hill, students grabbed their gear and split up into groups based on skill level and then went off to lessons in those groups. After lunch, the students skied on their own.

Seventh grade skier, Adele Hofman stated that her favorite hill is the bunny hill as it was the only one she went on.

Jace Bemis, Wacee Simenson, and Colter Snedigar had a more eventful day at the hill. One of the chaperones, Mr. Turner reported that the conditions were a bit icy, a circumstance which could have been the cause of the wrecks. Bemis left with a broken wrist, Simenson with a sprained neck, and Snedigar with sprained knees.

Because of all the catastrophe, the students unfortunately had to leave early. At Fuddruckers for dinner, Hofman said she ate sweet potato fries and drank a milkshake. When done eating, the group headed back home where parents waited to pick them up.

Chaperone Ms. Waldbillig was asked if she thinks the trips are beneficial for students, and she replied: "The ski hill is a three-hour drive, and this opportunity may be the first and only time for some of them to get out."

Mr. Turner responded to the same question with "For a lot of the students, this is their first time to go skiing, an experience which might get them interested in things they do not normally do or have the opportunity to do."



IN THE SPOT LIGHT

Richard Ence

By Ryley Hofeldt

New to the seventh-grade class, Richard Ence joins Chinook Junior High from Beaver, Utah. This is not the first time Richard has been in Montana. He was born in Great Falls and lived there until he was two years old. Then, he moved to Helena for three years and lived in Butte for two years before moving to Utah.



Rock collecting, jumping bikes, hanging with friends, and playing basketball are just a few things that interest Richard.

Looking towards high school, Richard hopes to be a part of the Sugarbeeter basketball program. In Beaver, he played on a basketball team and claimed to really like the sport.

Having made many friends, Richard is enjoying his time as a Sugarbeeter.

Karley Hajenga

By Falyn Cecrle

Forming many new friendships in Chinook, Karley Hajenga has made her way

from Lewistown to join the eighth-grade class of Chinook Junior High School. Karley likes playing volleyball and basketball.

On her time away from school and sports, she enjoys helping on the ranch with things like pregnancy testing and checking



cows.

When Karley isn't assisting at the ranch or playing on the court, she has fun spending time with her friends at school. After being asked if she likes it in Chinook, Karley

stated, "I like it here, and compared to Lewistown, Chinook has a lot of things going on, like assemblies."

Gunnar Lenz

By RJ Engstrom

Gunnar Lenz joined the eighth-grade class of 2028 this year, returning to Montana from Iowa.

Previously playing football, basketball, soccer, and baseball; running track; bowling, and swimming for the Chinook Lions' Swim Team, Gunnar likes to stay physically active.

Gunnar is also highly active within the school, playing percussion in the pep band.

When Gunnar isn't throwing a ball or running his heart out, he likes to play a wide variety of video games, dabbling in Minecraft, Call of Duty, and Madden.

Whether on the games or not, in school or out, Gunnar loves to hang out with friends and spend time with the ones he loves whenever he can.



Jeremiah Lodgepole

By Bailey Billmayer

Jeremiah Lodgepole is a new student in Mrs. Lesa MacLeod's fifth grade class.

After getting asked what superpower he would want to have, Jeremiah stated, "If I were to have any superpower, I would pick flying because you could fly and get to where you wanted to go. Also, if anyone were in danger, I could fly to them fast and help them."



About his future plans, he said, "I want to be a cop when I get older so I can save people."

On the topic of what he could never live without, Jeremiah responded: "I could never live without my

family because they are my world."

Finally, if he could change a rule or something else in school, he would change the height of the basketball hoops "because they are too high and one is taller than the other."

Koleman's Korner

By Bailey Billmayer

Koleman is an active participant in many activities during all seasons, but his favorite season is summer.

"He loves to walk his 4-H pig every morning," recalls Koleman's mom, Kelly Anderson. "He also loves to swim every afternoon when the weather gets warm!"

Koleman stays very busy when the county fair is in town, as well, with a pig project he thoroughly enjoys every summer. Last year

amongst the senior showmen, Koleman received a blue ribbon in showmanship as well as a blue ribbon in market hog. "He's really good at it," stated Anderson, "and trust me, the judge doesn't just give out ribbons to be nice."

With summer 'by far trumping' all other seasons of the year, Koleman also loves to go camping with his family.



After being asked about Koleman's favorite activities while camping, Anderson said, "He loves to ride his bike on all of the



little dirt roads around the campsite for hours on end, and he also loves to gather firewood and stack it up nicely by the firepit."

Spring Sports Are Just Around the Corner

By Falyne Cechle

As winter sports slide to an end, spring sports are blooming for the season. Coaches for tennis include current cheer coach Janelle Deanon and Chinook High School science teacher Aaron Chriss.

Continued on page 7

Track Coaches are returning with Chad Beck as the coach for jumping; former Chinook Middle School science teacher and now Blaine County Superintendent of Schools, Kendall Harwood as the running coach; and Trent Noel who coaches throwing.

Coaching golf this season are Nick Turner and Brent Schellin. All students interested in competing should remember to stay in shape as spring sports are only a couple of weeks away, starting on March 11.

Beeter Bulletin Gets a Stand

When the journalism class initially began to produce *The Beeter Bulletin*, the staff repurposed a music stand to serve as a newsstand for the distribution of their first issue. After the stand disappeared from the hallway where it stood near the art room,



staff members decided they needed something more permanent and purposeful.

For the remainder of the semester, the group talked about building a stand and even drew a couple of designs, but no one had the time, materials, or ambition to tackle the project. That was the reality until RJ Engstrom decided he would resolve the mystery of the missing music stand by building a new one.

Taking inspiration from “Google University,” Engstrom studied various images online and decided on a free-standing, three-shelf design. He used lumber harvested from Nick Faber’s barn at Cleveland to build the structure, so the piece has history and a story to tell.

This barn-wood constructed newsstand has taken up residence in the main hallway of the high school just beyond the front entrance. Each issue of the newspaper will be available from this location for any interested reader.

Cheer Squad Tumbles into Adversity

By Falyne Cecrle

Despite facing some obstacles this season, the 2023-2024 cheer squad has been leading the crowd in school spirit and keeping the fans hyped. The girls have kept busy learning new stunts and training upcoming freshman. With some of the girls experiencing personality differences and time conflicts, a couple decided to withdraw from the squad, leaving the team with only seven members.

The members still participating with the current cheerleading squad are Cheyenne Weigand, Ceci Ymzon, Paycee Leo, Ivey Lenz, Kylee Green, Kiley Huravitch, and Lotus Taly. In explaining how their season is going, senior cheerleader Leo explained: “This season has been a good one; our major

Continued on page 8

goal for this year was to cheer on the athletes and to encourage the fans and student section to get loud.”

Although Tayla Richman and Olivia Bartlett relinquished their positions on the squad, they still support their former team, cheering with them from the bleachers and sidelines. With schoolwork, family time, and mental health taking a toll on the girls, the two found it hard to have time for cheer.

“I’m happy with my decision to quit cheer, but I do miss being a part of the team and getting to do something I enjoyed with amazing people,” stated sophomore Olivia Bartlett.

The cheer squad asks for fan support to cheer on the basketball teams at tournaments.

Two Advance to State Speech and Drama

By Ryley Hofeldt

At the end of the season, Head Speech and Drama Coach, Chrissy Downs took two members of the team to state: Micah Conner and Ivey Lenz. The competition took place in Choteau on January 26-27.

The team consisted of three participants: Lenz (first year), Conner (second year), and Kiley Huravitch (first year). About her competitors, Downs said: “All three did really well this season, but unfortunately Kiley missed state by one place!”

Lenz competed in pantomime and placed seventh in state. Describing her self-authored act, “First Day on the Job,” Lenz explained: “My act was about a girl being late for her first day at a new job. It started with her waking up late and scrambling to get ready. Next, she arrives at a diner where she proceeds to initially mess up a customer's order, but then she remakes it correctly. After preparing the order, she goes on break where she listens and dances to

music on her phone. Her boss is not pleased with this performance and fires her.”

Lenz chose Speech and Drama because she has always enjoyed acting. While living in Butte, she said she participated in numerous plays and the children's theater. She hopes that more students will join Speech and Drama next year and encourages other students and staff to watch their showcases.

Competing in Humorous Oral Interpretation with his piece titled *Cooking on the Street* by Leon Kaye, Conners did not make it far enough to place at state competition this year.

After receiving the question, *Why did you join Speech and Drama*, Conners responded: “I like acting.” Given his pleasure, he plans to continue with Speech and Drama next year.

Downs is proud of her team and hopes that all return next year and bring friends, as she would enjoy seeing a bigger team.

FFA Will Take Nine Teams to State

By RJ Engstrom

Taking on Spring Districts, the Chinook FFA chapter traveled to Havre on February 6, hoping to qualify a ninth team in Career Development Events (CDE). Competing in Ag. Sales and fighting for a spot at the state competition, the team comprised of Wylee Simenson, Brockton Elliot, Ben Hofeldt, and Kohen Sullivan captured seventh place in Districts. The top half was nine teams, so Ag Sales will compete at state.

Despite being ill and throwing up, Simenson pushed through, having his very own “Michael Jordan flu game” and placing the highest on the team.

Selling Miller Electric Welders, the Ag. Sales team placed in the top 50 percent, qualifying them for state. The other eight

Continued on page 9

FFA teams that previously qualified were Horse Evaluation, Livestock, Agronomy, Meats, Agricultural Technological and Mechanical Systems (Mechanics), Poultry, Veterinary Science, and Floriculture.

About her teams, FFA Advisor Mrs. Mitzi Cecrle stated: “This year we have competed in nine different CDEs and have made it to state in every one. We will be spending every lunch available, with some after school practicing as well, until April 1 when we will go to Billings.”

Travelling with all nine teams, Chinook’s FFA Chapter will be heading to Billings for State FFA competition on April 2-6.

Wrestling Season Comes to a Close

By Bailey Billmayer

In Billings on February 9 and 10, the Montana State Wrestling Tournament was held. With almost fifty percent of the Chinook Sugarbeeter team landing on the podium, the three qualifiers had an overall successful weekend.

For the girls’ team, Klingaman took third place overall and Buck placed fourth. On the boys’ team, Schoen captured the fourth-place spot.

Getting to that point was a process. On Thursday, February 1, the wrestling team traveled to Wolf Point a day before the Divisional Tournament was scheduled. Upon arrival at the Wolf Point High School that evening, the team completed a workout and weighed in for the next morning.

When the tournament started the following morning on February 2, only two mats were set up with many matches to get through. The boys wrestled on both mats for the majority of the morning with the girls’ brackets beginning at around 3:00 p.m.

On Saturday, the first rounds of the semifinal matches were run; the girls wrestled on one mat and the boys on the other. With a long day in the gym, the championship face-offs did not begin until 7:30 p.m.

All three of the wrestlers on the girls’ team made it into the championships, qualifying for state. Sophomore Emma Klingaman took first place, dominating her bracket. Grace Buck, a junior, took a well-deserved second place in the 107-pound bracket. Bailey Billmayer, another sophomore, also placed second overall in the 114-pound division.

Continued on page 10



Mrs. Cecrle leads a study session during lunchtime on February 14 with her Ag Sales Team: Brockton Elliot, Wylee Simenson, Kohen Sullivan, and Ben Hofeldt.

Also in the works is the FFA’s own Hall of Chapters project, meant to be displayed at the state competition. The submitted designs are judged by the Montana State Advisors. The working committee that will build the project are members: Brockton Elliot, Wylee Simenson, Aislinn Handy, Ashlyn Hofeldt, Falyne Cecrle, Jacob Metcalf, Madi Gruszic, Jameson Nordboe, Zoë Scofield, Ben Hofeldt, Oliver Standiford, Kohen Sullivan, Wacey Simenson, and Bryce Elliot.



Hayden Berreth, an eighth grader in the 120-pound weight class, took the fourth-place spot on the podium. Freshman Walter Schoen likewise placed fourth, landing himself a qualification for the state meet at the 160-weight class. Owen Davies, a sophomore, placed seventh overall in the 152-pound bracket while Julian Powell, a freshman wrestling in the heavyweight division, placed sixth.

With some wins and losses throughout the divisional tournament, the seven wrestlers had prepared themselves for the long weekend at the state meet.

And with that, the wrestling season comes to an end. Finishing with some wins and losses, the young team looks ahead to competition in the future.

Beeter Girls Experience Their First Loss

By Falyn Cecrle

As the Chinook girls finished their season, they earned a championship title and went 17-0. "The girls' team is back to 0-0 to start off the post season, and we have begun by setting up new goals to meet, like winning the district tournament," explains Head Coach Mike Seymour.

During that tournament, the girls experienced their first loss.

Prior to that point, the Beeters met up with the Fairfield Eagles for a second time on February 1, grounding them for good. As the game went on, the two teams had many runs against each other, keeping the fans on the edge of their seats. Top scorer Hallie Neibauer scored 16 points with Alexis Seymour right behind her, putting up 15 while also ripping away six steals. When the end neared, the Beeters had pulled ahead, winning by a close seven points.

As the girls played another home game, they made sure the Wolves stayed in the woods and out of the Factory. Keeping a gap

in the score, they won by a difference of 67-15. With this score contrast, the JV players stepped in to put on a show for the fans.

Having one last conference game, the Beeters took on the Cowgirls in Conrad. Chinook captured the lead and didn't let go, once again allowing the JV to show the crowd what they were made of. Closing the game with a score of 51-18, the varsity followed their same pattern, taking home the Conference Champion title.

To cap off the actual season before tournaments, the girls played at home against the CJI Hawks for a non-conference game. Only winning by six points, the Beeters played the closest game of their season. Hallie Neibauer added 26 points to the final score of 51-45 while also having a strong defensive game, seizing four steals.

The girls took off into the District Tournament, looking for more wins. Their first game was the semi-finals against Conrad to see who would qualify for the championship. Taking another win, the Beeter girls punched their ticket with a score of 46-28.

Playing in the championship against Fairfield, the Beeters experienced the closest game they had ever played, devastatingly taking their first loss of the season.

About this loss, Seymour stated: "It's good to have some adversity because it will make them more hungry for the next win."



Jenna Liddle D's it up against CJI on Senior Night.

Chinook Dunks through Districts

By RJ Engstrom

The Beeter boys rounded out the season with a 3-14 record, landing them the sixth seed going into the district tournament. Finishing the tournament with a 2-2 record, the Beeters ended in fourth place.

Heading to Conrad on February 16, the boys set out for a chance to qualify for the upcoming divisionals. Starting their weekend by facing the Fairfield Eagles, the Beeters took a loss in their first game of the weekend.

The boys roped a decisive 60-39 win against the Conrad Cowboys on their second day of the tournament, beating the Cowboys on their home court.

Cementing a spot in the divisional tournament, the Beeters won a close match-up against the Rocky Boy Northern Stars. At half-time, the boys went to the locker room with a 34-36 deficit. And with only 35 second left on the game clock, the Stars had the upper hand, 66-67. With a “nail biting” finish and a three-pointer by Gyne Kelly, the Beeter boys won the game: 69-67, sending the Stars back into orbit.

Rounding out the tournament in the third and fourth decision game, the boys lost 54-70 against the Shelby Coyotes and in a 55-71 game against the Fairfield Eagles.

Leading up to tournaments, the Chinook boys had previously taken on the Fairfield Eagles for their first home game of February, losing 46-65.

Next, the Beeters traveled to Cut Bank and faced the Wolves on February 3, claiming a loss 45-63.

With another road game, the boys brawled with the Conrad Cowboys on February 9, leaving Conrad with the victory.

In a close 61-60 loss on Senior Night, the Beeters “played eight,” according to many fans, against the nonconference opponent

Chester-Joplin-Inverness. The close loss left the boys with a 3-14 record as they headed to the district post-season tournament.

The Chinook boys will travel to Malta the weekend of February 23, hoping to fight for a spot in the state competition.

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Jackson Nordboe hangs on the rim briefly after dunking the basketball during Senior Night, a game the Beeters lost by only one point.



District Music Festival Scheduled for April

By Bailey Billmeyer

Musically talented students are beginning to sign up for District Music Festival, which will be held in Havre on April 19-20. However, students have until February 21 to register their intentions.

According to Music Director, Blake Downs, at this stage, junior Ivey Lenz with her clarinet, junior Dentin DePriest with his trombone, and senior Quentin Edwards on his alto saxophone plan to participate.

Downs went on to explain that schools send their bands, choirs, orchestras, small ensembles, and soloists to perform for adjudication by music professionals at district festivals around the state.

“Apart from group sight reading, all of the pieces are selected in advance and performed for judges over the two days of the festival. Performances receive a rating

Continued on page 12

from five to one, with one being a superior score and earning the performer(s) a spot to perform at the state level,” he said.

When asked if there would be a guest conductor at the festival this year, Downs replied, “There is actually no guest conductor for the festival. Honor Band in the fall is an event with a guest conductor and a multi-school combined performance. The adjudicators are primarily state music professors or other performing music professionals.”

After being questioned about performances, Downs said, “Most of the entries execute their pieces in classrooms, while the audience is primarily other performers.”

While the festival features instrumentals, it also offers spots for vocal solos and ensembles. Chinook students have not expressed any interest in the vocal aspect so far, however.

Although this will be Edwards’ first Festival participation, it is DePriest’s second year participating in the District Music Festival. Last year, he made it to the State competition, where he earned a rating of 2.

About the event, DePriest commented: “I’ve played the trombone for seven years now. It’s a challenging but enjoyable instrument, as each position on the slide has many different notes. It has been very fun seeing myself improve since fifth grade. I would never have dreamt I would participate in Honor Band or State Music Festival.”

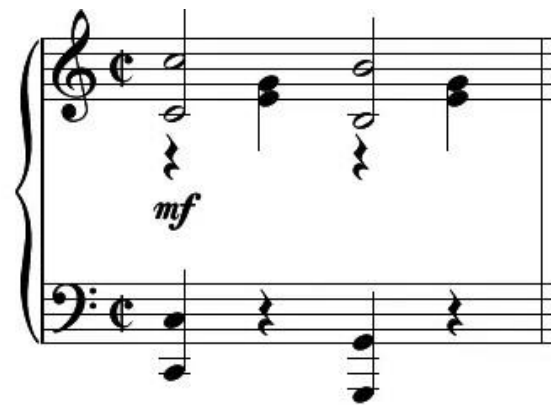
The aspect of the Festival that DePriest most enjoyed and is again looking forward to is hearing the music of other bands and soloists. “We don’t quite have the band numbers that larger schools do, so it’s refreshing to hear more mature-sounding groups. Sharing my hard work and talent is also one of the most fun things about Festival,” DePriest reported.

He went on to say, “Music Festival is always challenging, from choosing your

piece to finally performing in front of a large group of people. Preparing your song takes lots of practice. If you have an accompanist, coordinating times to practice together is another hurdle. It’s all worth it in the end though!”

For Festival this year, DePriest selected an excerpt from *Piece for Trombone and Piano* by Guy Ropartz. A slower piece, it will test his ability to hold long and high tones.

DePriest values music for the skill it teaches, calling the arts “crucial for creating well-rounded individuals.”



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