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The Source Online

The Spencer Community School District Online Newsletter

SHS MUSIC STUDENTS TO PERFORM IN 2009 IOWA ALL-STATE MUSIC FESTIVAL

Seven Spencer High School students have attained the highest individual honor available to Iowa high school musicians by being selected for participation in the 2009 Iowa All-State Music Festival. Morgan Kramer, son of Scott and Cindy Kramer; Joel Kaldahl, son of Paul and Kristin Kaldahl; Julia Olson, daughter of Mark and Brenda Olson; Amanda Sandvig, daughter of Kenneth and Julie Sandvig; Erin McDermott, daughter of Jim and Kris McDermott; and Jake Hinrichsen, son of Tom and Vonnie Hinrichsen were selected for the chorus. Elise Burnham, daughter of Mike and Virginia Burnham was selected for the band. The SHS Choral Program is under the direction of Katie Kardell and the SHS Instrumental Music Program is under the direction of Kurt Schwarck.

The 2009 Festival celebrates the 63rd anniversary of this prestigious event. District auditions for the 279-piece All-State Band, 197-piece All-State Orchestra and 601-voice All-State Chorus were held Saturday, October 24, 2009, at Storm Lake, Hampton, Manchester, Harlan, Indianola and Fairfield. Approximately 17 % of the students who audition are selected for membership in the All-State ensembles. Participants rehearse in Ames on Friday and Saturday, November 20 and 21 and the Festival Concert will be presented to the public at 7:30 PM in Hilton Coliseum on the campus of Iowa State University in Ames on Saturday, November 21, 2009. Iowa Public Television will record the concert for re-broadcast scheduled for Thursday, November 26 at 7:00pm and additional re-broadcast times. Please check the IPTV website (www.iptv.org) for any changes and additions. This annual festival is under the auspices of the Iowa High School Music Association and the Iowa Music Educators Association.



WINTER WEATHER

The easiest way to stay on top of postponements and cancellations of classes is to visit the district website at: www.spenceriowaschools.com.

Weather related announcements are posted there immediately after the decision is made. You can also subscribe to an e-mail notification through schoolalerts.iowa.gov. Local radio and television stations will also be notified and will broadcast weather related announcements.

HOLIDAY HOURS

All school buildings will be closed over the holiday break with the exception of the Central Office

Central Office Hours

December 23	7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
December 24-25	CLOSED
December 28	7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
December 29	7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
December 30	7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
December 31 & January 1	CLOSED

SPENCER SCHOOLS WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE DISTRICT

Middle School and High School teachers continue to work on evaluating the quality of the lessons and tasks they use for instruction. Teachers are now moving toward evaluating student work as an extension of the quality of the lesson. They also meet an additional hour each month for their learning team requirements.

Elementary staff is working on embedding writing into their science units, and making sure time is allowed for students to process their thinking with the content they are learning. The framework, for the components within each unit, has been established. Teachers are making adjustments as they move through the units in science using FOSS kits and aligned resources.

Guidance staff is working on writing a cohesive K-12 program that is accessible to all students as their Core work. The Core of their work encompasses three domain areas of focus: academic, career, and person/social skills. They are also identifying students who need additional support. They are using the three domain areas of service for identification. This data rolls into Allowable Growth funding from the DE that supports their work. For information on Professional Development in the district, contact Barb Besch, Director of School Improvement, at 262-8950.

Lunch reminders...

Eating with your Student is always welcomed and encouraged, but please remember to call the school in advance to ensure there is plenty for everyone.

On special meals such as Thanksgiving and Christmas we ask that parents and guest try to avoid these days, so we can let their class celebrate together.

Remember you can check your student or family account balances or student transactions on line. You may do so by going to the Spencer web page and clicking on parents, then you click on appropriate school building, Parent user name and password are the same as the one you use to check the progress of your Students grades. If you need help or you have any questions you may call me Laurie Lawson 264-3423 7:00 – 2:00

It is never too late to fill out an Iowa Eligibility Application for free and reduced meals, this is also located on the school web page under documents.

WINTER CONCERTS

The Spencer Schools Music Department has had a busy fall with marching band, a fall musical, and fall band/vocal concert.

December is also a busy month for everyone. Please take a moment to look ahead and mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

December 1, 7:00 P.M. **Middle School Band/Vocal Concert** at Middle School Gym

December 3, 6:30 P.M. **Fairview K-3 Winter Concert** at Middle School Auditorium

December 8, 6:30 P.M. **Lincoln K-3 Winter Concert** at Middle School Auditorium

December 10, 6:30 P.M. **Johnson K-3 Winter Concert** at Middle School Auditorium

December 14, 7:00 P.M. **High School Winter Band/Vocal Concert** at High School Fieldhouse

Spencer Middle School Band Students Receive High Honor

Elizabeth Meier and Sam Koppen, members of the SMS 8th Grade Band recently earned a position in the Iowa Bandmasters Association All-Iowa 8th Grade Honor Band. Their selection resulted from earning positions in the Northwest Iowa Middle School/Junior High Honor Band. Elizabeth and Sam will perform as part of the All-Iowa Honor Band in May of 2010 at the Iowa Bandmasters Association conference held at the Des Moines Marriott Hotel.

The All-Iowa 8th Grade Band is made up of 132 students from the six IBA districts in the state of Iowa. This honor band rehearses under the direction of a nationally known composer of middle level band music and premieres a new work written especially for the band by that composer on the concert.

Elizabeth is the daughter of Scott and Kim Meier of Spencer, and Sam is the son of Wayne and Diana Koppen of Spencer.



Spencer Middle School Band Students To Perform in Northwest Iowa Honor Band

The 42nd Annual Northwest Iowa Middle School/Junior High Honor Band Festival will take place on Saturday, November 7, 2009 in Storm Lake, Iowa. The Northwest Iowa Bandmasters Association sponsors the festival for outstanding middle school band students from the Northwest Iowa region.

Approximately 425 seventh and eighth grade musicians from 44 Northwest Iowa schools auditioned on October 17th for selection to one of two equal bands. These two honor bands will rehearse during the day on November 7th, and present a concert that evening at 6:00 p.m. in the Storm Lake High School Gymnasium. Admission is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students. Guest conductors for the honor band festival will be Dave Snakenberg, Director of Bands at South Sioux City Middle School and Robert Gibson, band director at North Middle School in Sioux City.

Students from the Spencer Middle School Band who are participating in the festival are:

Front row L-R: Jordan Hansen, Sam Koppen, Elizabeth Meier
Back row L-R: Lauren Schwarck, Christian Kladstrup, David Goyette, Tory Soma



Spencer High School Semester Test Information

We will use the following semester test schedule:

December 21, 2008 (DAY 1)

1 st	8:30 – 9:55
2 nd	10:00 – 11:25
Lunch	11:30 – 12:25
3 rd	12:30 – 1:55
4 th	2:00 – 3:25

December 22, 2008 (DAY 2)

5 th	8:15 – 9:40
6 th	9:45 – 11:10
7 th	11:15 – 12:40
Lunch	12:40 – 1:10
Makeup	1:10 – 2:30

There are several important things students need to know regarding these two days:

1. Monday: All freshmen are to remain on school grounds for lunch. 10-12 graders have lunch and open campus from 11:30 – 12:25. From 11:30 – 12:00, all freshmen (as well as other students staying) are required to remain in the student center to eat lunch. At 12:00, students will be allowed to go to the gym to shoot baskets or sit on the bleachers, go to the library for quiet study time, or remain in the student center to chat. No students are to be in other parts of the building from 11:30 – 12:00. Students who plan to be on the gym floor need to get their gym shoes on—street shoes will not be permitted on the floor.
2. All students are required to report to all classes, including study hall, until they have attended their last class of the day. Students are to remain in classes for the entire period. Students in 4th period study hall on Monday **MUST** have parent/guardian permission before being allowed to leave for the day. Students in 7th period study hall on Tuesday **MUST** also have parent/guardian permission before being allowed to leave for the day.
3. Students who have missed taking a test on Monday or at a previous time need to make these tests up on Tuesday from 1:10 – 2:30. Please make these arrangements with your classroom teachers.
4. School will be dismissed at 3:25 on Monday and at 2:30 on Tuesday. Activity sponsors may schedule practice times starting at 3:25—check with your coach or sponsor to find out your practice times on those days. All other students need to leave the building at 3:25. Students waiting for the bus need to remain in the student center until the bus arrives.
5. *All 9th graders are to go to Day 1 class (PE or Study Hall or Health). 10th graders go the Day 1 class (PE or study hall).*
6. All classes will have semester tests. Any teacher who wants an exemption must have Mr. Mueting's endorsement.
7. No Homeroom or classroom parties. Note the start time for each day/class.

CHALLENGE Students Place in Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl Competition

Twenty-one students from the elementary CHALLENGE Program participated in Urbandale's Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl competition on November 4th, 2009. In groups of 5th and 6th grade teams, the students collaborated around one computer to answer one hundred trivia questions. The sixth grade team placed sixth among the forty grade level teams and eighth over all. The fifth grade team placed twenty-second out of thirty grade level teams and fifty-ninth among the total of seventy teams. The students enjoyed putting their thoughts together for a common goal and representing Spencer.

Sixth grade student participating in the competition include:

Parker Schenk	Jake Kluender	Emily Weeks
Sam Polaschek	Seth Anderson	Levi Brausey
Hannah Schroer	Sarah Rekow	Josh Johnson
Gavin Young		

Participating fifth grade students include:

Cameron Cantrall	Lily Norlin	Cam Chaffin
Eric Beehler	Carissa Cummings	Katie Simpson
Harry Whittenburg-Nelsen	Isaac Johnson	Steven Crew
Evan Hanson	Riley White	



Reading During the Holidays

Research not only describes what works in a school environment for reading instruction, but it plainly shows that family members—mothers, fathers, grandparents, older sisters and brothers—play a major role in helping children learn to read and in improving their reading ability. Family involvement is such a strong predictor of reading and other academic success.

Therefore, if families:

- Read to and with their children,
- Read themselves, and encourage their children to read,
- Keep a variety of reading materials in the home,
- Have high expectations for their children's reading achievement, and
- Help teach their children to read and respond to their children's interest in books, without a doubt their children will be better readers than children from families who do not participate in these activities (NAS, 1998).

During Christmas vacation, as family take opportunities to read stories together; even your middle school child enjoys having stories read to them. Encourage your child to read while in the vehicle traveling to your holiday gatherings. Have your child read recipes and make Christmas goodies. Enjoy your vacation and read, read, READ!!

HIGH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Academic Achievement Awards – Congratulations to the following teams that have received the Iowa Girls Athletic Union's Excellence in Academic Achievement Award: The Girls Cross Country Team, the Volleyball Team, and the Swim Team. The Boys Athletic Union Excellence in Academic Achievement Award went to our Boys Cross Country Team and the football cheerleaders were given the Distinguished Award.

New and Emerging Technologies Conference – Scott Rettey, Industrial Arts Instructor, put together an outstanding program for students this past month in partnership with the Lakes Corridor Group. Students from Spirit Lake, Okoboji, and Spencer High School were given a wide array of potential welding opportunities by an excellent team of local businesses as well as Iowa Lakes Community College and Northwest Community College.

Sportsmanship Conference – The Lakes Conference sponsored a Sportsmanship Conference which was held in Spencer in November for all member schools. Two local officials were featured speakers. Character Education was the focus of the presentation. Students attending were Holly Butters, Coire Walker, Brandt Illg, Trevor Black, Haley Lachner, Max Rasmussen and Taylor Lowe.

Nobel Conferences for Science – Mrs. Chris Oponski, Science Teacher, accompanied several students to the 2008 Nobel Conference for Science at Gustavus Adolphus College. Students attending were Emily Elliott, Tiara Caleb, Jesse Barnes, Ross Maurer, and Jenna Barnes.

Student Fire Fighters – The Student Fire Fighter Program is entering the 2nd year. The first year proved to be very positive for the students and the department. Two of last years students have joined the department this fall as full-time members. Additional students were given their equipment at a meeting on November 17. Current student fire fighters are Ben Roos, Zach Carlson, Bo Kiyanchuk, Kris Rhode, Becky Updike, James Randall and Devan Schipper. The high school is grateful to the department and Mr. Dave Schipper for giving these students this opportunity.



OPEN ENROLLMENT NOTICE

Parents or guardians considering the use of the open enrollment option to enroll their children in another public school district in the State of Iowa for the 2010-11 school year must be aware of the following dates.

March 1, 2010: *Last year date for regular open enrollment requests for the 2010-11 school year. If a student meets the definition of good cause under 281-Iowa Administrative Code 17.4 (1) because of a change in residence the application can be accepted after March 1, 2010.*

September 1, 2010: *The deadline for entering kindergarten students.*

A student who transfers school districts under open enrollment in grades 9-12 shall not be eligible to participate in interscholastic contests and competitions at the varsity level during the first 90 school days of transfer. Parents/guardians of open enrolled students whose income falls below 160% of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible for transportation assistance.

If you have questions, please contact the Superintendent's Office at 712-262-8950.

Northwest Iowa High School Honor Band Festival

Approximately 225 high school musicians from 44 area high schools will combine their talents for the 55th annual Northwest Iowa Honor Band Festival Saturday, January 9, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in Eppley Auditorium at the Morningside College Campus in Sioux City. Membership was chosen through auditions held November 7 in Storm Lake from among 450 entries.

Spencer High School will be represented by:

Mary Krull, flute; Ann Magnuson, flute; Elise Burnham, clarinet; Courtney Upah, French Horn; Sarah Rutt, euphonium; and Kyle Winterboer, Tuba.

The festival will feature two bands of equal size and instrumentation. The bands will rehearse throughout the day preparing music selected by the guest conductors. Conducting this year's festival will be Dr. Calvin Hofer, Director of Bands at Mesa State and Dr. Jay Gilbert of Doane College.

Dr. Calvin Hofer is currently Head of the Music Department and Director of Wind Studies at Mesa State College where he conducts the MSC Wind Symphony and teaches applied trumpet. Dr. Hofer is principal trumpet with the Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra as well as the Mesa State College Faculty Brass Quintet. He also plays principal B-flat cornet with the Rocky Mountain Brass Band in Silverton, Colorado. Dr. Hofer received his undergraduate degree from South Dakota State University, his Master of Music Education degree from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, and his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of North Texas. While at UNT, Dr. Hofer was a finalist in the concerto competition and voted outstanding graduate student in instrumental music. Before coming to Mesa State College, Dr. Hofer was Director of Bands and trumpet instructor at Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa as well as a member of the Sioux City Symphony, Sioux City Jazz Orchestra and Symphony Brass Quintet. Before graduate school Dr. Hofer was the Assistant Director of Bands at Central High School in Rapid City, S. D. where he taught instrumental music in grades 5-12.

Dr. Jay W. Gilbert is director of instrumental music and chair of the Music Department. He conducts the Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, and the Tiger Pep Band. He is also the music director of the Blue River Community Band. A native of Madison, Wisconsin, he holds a bachelor's degree in music education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and masters and doctoral degrees in conducting from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, where he studied with the renowned conductor and arranger, John P. Paynter, and the outstanding orchestral conductor, Victor Yampolsky. Dr. Gilbert's career as a band director began in the public schools of Wisconsin, where he taught instrumental music in elementary, middle, junior high, and high schools. Prior to his appointment at Doane, Dr. Gilbert was assistant director of bands at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. He has been a guest conductor throughout the United States and Canada. He has also served as a presenter for numerous state conventions and the Midwest International Band/Orchestra Clinic in Chicago

The Northwest Iowa Bandmasters Association, a group of band directors from 15 Northwest Iowa counties, sponsors the concert. Officers of this year's organization include:

President: Mr. Tom Cronin, South O'Brien High School
Vice-President: Mr. Paul Jepson, Spencer Middle School
Secretary: Mr. Michael Pritchard, Bishop Heelan High School
Treasurer: Mr. Curt Ohrlund, LeMars High School
Past President: Mr. Kurt Schwarck, Spencer High School

Tickets for the evening concert will be available at the door. Admission is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students.



PSY Newsletter

Positively Spencer Youth (PSY) is made up of parents and community members who want to make a difference with the Spencer youth. The goal of the group is to change the attitude towards substance use and abuse through prevention and education.

Future Events:

December 15th : 7pm
Monthly PSY Meeting
Spencer Hospital's Cedar Conference Room (lower level)

OUR MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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To reach PSY:
580-SAFE
info@positivelyouth.org

This holiday season PSY would like to remind parents of the dangers of underage drinking. 74% of SHS juniors reported in the 2008 Iowa Youth Survey that it would be "easy" or "very easy" for a kid their age to get alcoholic beverages.

It is important for parents to remember that the most likely place for youth to get alcohol is in their own home; and that the brain continues to develop into the mid-20's and drinking poses risks to that development.

Happy Holidays
from everyone at Positively Spencer Youth

PSY is working to update volunteer contact information...

If you have previously volunteered for PSY or would like to help in the future, please contact the PSY office by calling 580-SAFE or by emailing info@positivelyouth.org.

Thank you!!



Spencer High School - District Calendar Info

December, 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1		7:00pm Large Group Speech Tryouts @ HS Little Theater 7:00pm MS Band/Vocal Concert @ MS Gym	2		6:30pm Fairview K-3 Winter Concert @ Old MS Auditorium HS Debate TNY @ Okoboji	3
						4
						5
						6
6	State Dance Team Contest	Grand Meander 6:30pm Lincoln K-3 Vocal Concert @ Old MS Auditorium	8		6:30pm Johnson K-3 Vocal Concert HS Debate @ Dowling TNY	11
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