

## Practice makes perfect



**LOOSENING UP**, as well as warming up, the Decatur Community High School band prepared for last week's performance with director Christie Morris shortly before the Tuesday night concert.

Decatur Dictator

By the DCHS Dictator Staff

## School Menus

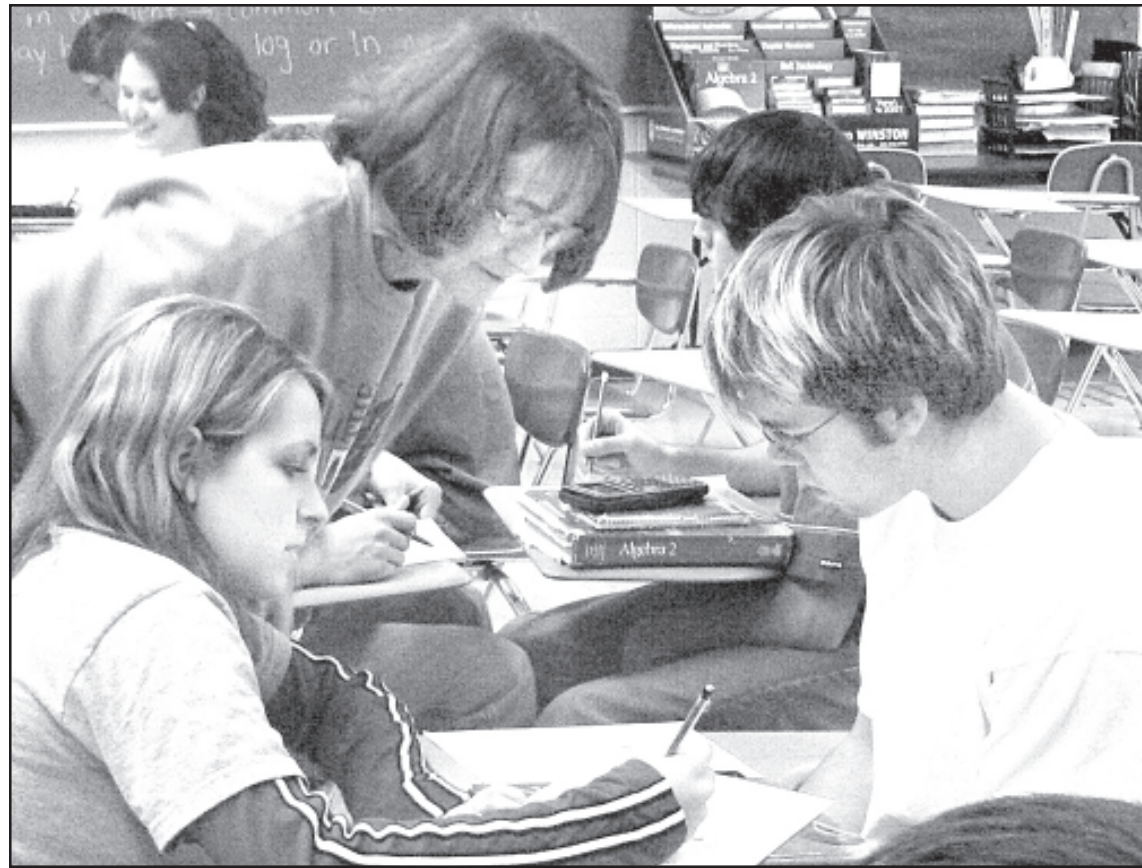
**Feb. 5-9**  
**OBERLIN SCHOOLS**  
**Monday:** Breakfast: Hot Pockets. Lunch: Little Smokies, au gratin potatoes, dinner roll. **Tuesday:** Breakfast: breakfast pizza. Lunch: chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, dinner roll. **Wednesday:** Breakfast: muffin, breakfast combo. Lunch: chicken nuggets, scalloped potatoes, dinner roll. **Thursday:** Breakfast: pancake, ham patty. Lunch: lasagna, green beans, garlic breadsticks. **Friday:** Breakfast: biscuits and gravy. Lunch: pizza, corn. Juice and fruit served with breakfast. Milk served

with all meals. Choice bar served with all lunches.



# It all adds up to one great teacher

**By LAUREN FORTIN**  
 Teacher, plus coach, plus mother: When you add all these up, you get math teacher Pat Dorshorst. Mrs. Dorshorst has been teaching in Oberlin for 24 years. She has taught classes from algebra to calculus and junior high physical education. She is currently teaching Applied Math I and II, Algebra II, statistics and trigonometry. Mrs. Dorshorst grew up in Dalton, Neb., with three sisters and three brothers, two of whom were cousins that her parents raised. In high school she participated in volleyball, basketball, track, band, choir, speech, Future Homemakers of America and cheerleading. She also excelled in volleyball and basketball and went on to Eastern Wyoming College to play both sports. While there, she competed in two National Junior College Athletic Association national volleyball tournaments and two National Junior College Athletic Association national basketball tournaments. She was also named to the all-conference volleyball team for Region IX. She is still the serving record holder, and has held that record for over 25 years.



**PAT DORSHORST** helps sophomores Farra McChesney and Sam Stapp with a math problem. — Photo by Heather Williams

After two years at Eastern Wyoming, she transferred to Chadron State to play volleyball and finish her education. Mrs. Dorshorst graduated from Chadron State and earned two master's degrees, one in physical education and one in mathematics. She has been teaching for 26 years, including one year at Yuma, Colo., and one year as a graduate assistant at Chadron State. "I honestly can't remember wanting to do anything else but teach as I grew up," said Mrs. Dorshorst. "The majority of my siblings and their spouses are teachers, and my parents always promoted a good education and helping others." "I enjoyed learning new information and sharing the information with others," Mrs. Dorshorst continued. "I spent a lot of time working with young people and thoroughly enjoyed it. I guess all of these had a role in my decision to become a teacher." When asked what she enjoys

about teaching, she said, "I like making a difference in young lives whether it be in the academic area or just letting each of them know that someone cares and is there for them when they need help." Her colleague Dick Ahlberg said, "Pat Dorshorst is a true professional. She is qualified, dedicated, dependable, and demanding. She is one of the hardest working individuals that I have ever known." Mrs. Dorshorst's advice for students is to be involved in school activities. "Challenge yourself to do your best in all that you do, and prepare yourself for whatever may arise in your future by taking classes, studying, and not taking the easy way out," she said. In her 26 years of teaching, she says her methods have changed. "My methods now include a lot more use of technology and are more activity oriented. I also use cooperative, and interactive learning."

Why do students need to know math concepts? Mrs. Dorshorst explains. "At some point in time, every student is going to have to do some calculating and applying mathematical concepts. Some will need the mathematical and problem-solving skills for their occupations, but more will need those skills for their everyday lives, for loans, checking accounts, utility bills, budget, income, car expenses, etc." For Mrs. Dorshorst, the rewards of teaching are the students' successes. "The success of every student is rewarding," she said. Mrs. Dorshorst has been a success not only in teaching, but also in her coaching. She has been coaching volleyball for 24 years, beginning her career as an assistant coach at Chadron State. She has been the head coach at Decatur Community High for 21 years and has a cumulative record of 373-219. She has had some very good teams in her career. Her most suc-

cessful team was this year's 2006 squad which had the best overall record (32-2), went undefeated during the regular season, and won four tournaments: the Oberlin Invitational, the McCook Invitational, Northwest Kansas League tournament, and the sub-state tournament. "This year's 2006 squad was fantastic," she said. "Mrs. Dorshorst is one of the most successful volleyball coaches in the state," said Activities Director Randy Olson. "Her coaching ability allows her to make average teams good, good teams better, and better teams (like the 2006 volleyball team) great." The 1991 team was also very good, according to Mrs. Dorshorst. "They run a close second to this year's team," she said. The 1991 team had a 26-6 record and placed fourth at state. "Seeing young adults grow in areas of respect toward others, dedication, teamwork, and cooperation

are the ultimate rewards of coaching," said Mrs. Dorshorst. "To see a player's skills develop and see a player develop a love of the game is also rewarding." She also said, "I am extremely lucky that I have always had excellent young ladies to coach. The work ethics and positive attitudes of every team has been rewarding in itself." "She develops the individual players' skills and abilities and somehow finds a way to maximize their talents to form consistently competitive teams," said Mr. Olson. "Her dedication to the sport has made Red Devil volleyball a recognized name throughout the state, and the teams that Coach Dorshorst puts on the court have generated a real base of volleyball fanatics in the community. The hustle and team-

work that her teams display have made the volleyball matches the place to be on Tuesday evenings in Red Devil Country." Mrs. Dorshorst is married to Duane, principal at Oberlin Elementary School, and they have four daughters. Dani is a science teacher and head volleyball coach at Sidney, Neb. Kelsey is a junior at K-State, majoring in psychology. Tricia is a senior at Decatur Community High, and Miki is a sixth grader at Oberlin Elementary. In her free time she likes to follow her daughters' activities, read, and garden. "It doesn't matter if it is in the classroom or on the volleyball court, Pat Dorshorst is there when the students need her," said Mr. Ahlberg. "I am proud to work in the same school with her."

"Putting Your Hands on the Future"  
 NWKTC has what you are looking for:

- Auto Body Repair
- Automotive Technology
- Business Technology
- Carpentry
- Communications Technology
- Communications Network Technology
- Computer Graphics Technology
- Cosmetology
- Diesel Technology
- Electrical Technology
- Electronics & Computer Technology
- Engineering Technology
- HVAC/R
- Medical Assistant
- Respiratory Therapy \*Fall 2007
- Telecommunications Net. Analyst \*Fall 2007
- Welding

**NORTHWEST**  
 Kansas Technical College

Goodland, KS

For more information, call today at (785)890-3641 or (800)316-4127. Check out our web site at: www.nwktc.edu

**Gas Thieves Don't Drive in Kansas!**

Driveoffs drive up the price of gasoline for all of us. That's why members of the Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association of Kansas support a Kansas law that punishes gas thieves. Under the law, drivers who don't pay for their gasoline may lose their driver's licenses. Help keep gas prices down by paying for your gasoline and reporting drivers who don't to the Kansas Highway Patrol.

**PMCA** | www.pmcaofks.org

**'06 Chevrolet Cobalt**

- 2.2 Liter 4 Cyl.
- Automatic Trans
- Air Conditioning
- AM/FM CD
- P/Windows & Locks
- 16" Alum. Wheels
- Rear Spoiler
- Tilt/Cruise
- Front Driver/Passenger Air Bags
- Only 21,300 miles
- Remainder of Factory Warranty
- 24 mpg city/32 mpg hwy

**Sale Price \$12,900**

**\$0.00**  
 Down Payment

**\$224.61** Mo.\*

[www.drivewagner.com](http://www.drivewagner.com)

**WAGNER**  
 CHEVROLET - BUICK - PONTIAC - CADILLAC

201 East B Street McCook 345-3500 800-456-5046

**'06 Chevrolet Malibu**

- 2.2 Liter 4 Cyl.
- Automatic Trans
- Air Conditioning
- AM/FM CD
- P/Windows & Locks
- Power Mirrors
- Keyless Entry
- Tilt/Cruise
- Dual Stage Front Dr/Pass Air Bags
- Only 800 miles
- Remainder of Factory Warranty
- 24 mpg city/32 mpg hwy

**Sale Price \$12,900**