



**IN THE VOCAL ROOM,** teacher Susan Nelson (above) worked with Joe Hirsch on his individual vocal solo for the upcoming regional music festival. Tim Larson (below right)

## Musical students prepare for contest

The students and teachers at Decatur Community High School are getting ready for the regional music festival at the end of the month.

Before spring break, students practiced what they would play and sing in groups and as individuals.

The high school will host the event again this year, said Susan Nelson, vocal teacher. It has been held here for 28 of the last 30 years.

"We have a good facility for hosting this event," she said.

The festival will be held all day on Saturday, March 28.

The Kansas State High School Activities Association will provide judges and guidelines for the event. This year there are 18 schools from Class 1A to 4A attending. Oberlin, said Mrs. Nelson, will have 42 vocal and instrumental entries, more than many of the other schools. Sarah Bricker is band instructor.

Vocal and instrumental students, who receive a I rating, will have the chance to compete at the state music contest in late April in Concordia.

Groups, which receive a I rating will travel to Colby on Thursday,

April 16, for their state contest.

To help musicians prepare for the event, said Mrs. Nelson, there will be a pre-contest recital at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, in the music wing of the high school.

Mrs. Nelson added that besides preparing for the regional festival, the DCHS Singers sang the National Anthem for the Class 1A State Basketball Tournament in Hays last Wednesday.

On the way to Hays, she said, the students performed in grade schools in Selden and Quinter.



**ON HIS SAXOPHONE,** Daniel Jordan (above) practiced with the band while down the hall, Annamarie Larue (right) held her sheet music and sang.



— Story and photos by Kimberly Davis