

# Band buddies play on

They were once the fifth graders, playing at the high school for the first time on Band Buddy night. Now they are in high school and welcoming their little buddies to the high school.

If you thought the pep band on Tuesday looked a little bit bigger and a little bit younger, you were right. The fifth-grade band students joined the high school pep band for the annual Band Buddy Night.

Her first year as Oberlin director of bands, Sarah Bricker (then Sarah Reif) began the Band Buddy program. She paired up high school band members with fifth graders who were just starting band and learning to play their instruments. Six years later, some of those fifth grade band students are now in the high school band.

In the fall, the students begin by writing letters back and forth, getting to know each other. "The high school band students are intended to be role models for the fifth graders and a source of encouragement for them," said Miss Reif six years ago.

"The purpose of Band Buddies is to encourage the fifth graders. Learning how to play a new instrument is very exciting but also very



**THE PEP BAND LAST WEEK** included both the regular high school musicians and their fifth-grade band buddies, who entertained the fans while the Decatur Community High boys team downed the Dighton Hornets. The program was started by Band Director Sarah Bricker.

difficult and at times frustrating. Having a high school band member as a friend gives the fifth graders not only someone to look up to, but also to encourage them and offer advice," said Miss Reif. Six years later, the program is going strong, and now those fifth graders are the role models.

"Band Buddy Night is the most anticipated activity of the year," said Mrs. Bricker. The students gather together for pizza before the basketball game, and then they get to play with the high school band during the game.

Every beginning fifth grade band student is assigned a high school band member to be his/her "buddy" for the year.

# Scholars ready to head for state

The Decatur Community High School Scholar Bowl team is headed to state – again. Last year, Oberlin placed fifth at state and the team looks to top that placing this year.

Five from last year's team returned, including Miki Dorshorst, Matthew Helm, Elizabeth Nedland, Caleb Koerperich and Sierra Lohoefer. Nick Ashley is the rookie. Their coach is Marlene Moxter.

Overall, Oberlin placed second at the Regional meet in Lincoln on Thursday. Smith Center won the meet and Bennington came in third. The top three teams advance to state, which is Saturday in Brookville.

In the first round of competition, Oberlin defeated Wakefield 80-15. Kellen Doeden, an Oberlin alumnus, is the Wakefield coach.

Oberlin then defeated Plainville in round two 40-30. After the 16-question round, the score was tied 30-30. Matthew Helm answered the world language tie-breaker question.

Oberlin defeated Lincoln 50-20, Ell-Saline 60-30, Solomon 50-10 and Republic County 40-20 in pool play.

The top three teams in each pool – Oberlin, Lincoln and Ell-Saline and Smith Center, Bennington and Oakley went into round-robin play for the championship.

In the first round of championship play, Oberlin defeated Lincoln 50-10. Oberlin's first loss of the day came in round 2 of the championships. Ell-Saline won 60-50 on a tie-breaker question in fine arts.

In round 3, Oberlin defeated Bennington 40-30. Oberlin then lost to the eventual regional champions Smith Center 40-50. In the final round of the day, Oberlin beat Oakley 45-30.

Sixteen questions in seven different categories make up a scholar bowl round. Except for the math questions, contestants have 10 seconds to buzz in with the correct answer. If a team member answers correctly, the team is awarded 10 points. If someone buzzes in before the moderator finishes reading the question and answers incorrectly, the team loses five points, and the other team gets a chance to answer the question. There is no point deduction for an incorrect answer if the moderator finishes the question before someone buzzes in.

The first question is a world language phrase or sentence that contestants have to translate into English. Then there are three language arts questions that can be about literature or grammar. Three science questions are next, which can cover anything from any type of science, such as biology, earth science, chemistry.

Following the science questions are three social studies questions. These might be about world history, United States history, or geography.

Next, contestants get three math questions, which might be in algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or cal-


culus. Contestants get 30 seconds to compute most math questions. They cannot use calculators – only pencils and scratch paper.

Two fine arts questions follow the math questions. Fine arts questions might be about music, art, theatre or dance.

The last question is a current-events question.

If the score is tied after the 16 questions, contestants are given tie-breaker questions. The moderator or score keeper will choose a category, and then read a question from that category. A correct answer wins the round, but if no one gets the question right, the process continues until the tie is broken.

Voice of Decatur Community High School



# Decatur Dictator

By the DCHS Dictator Staff

## School Menus

**Feb. 11-12 OBERLIN SCHOOLS**


**Monday:** Breakfast: ham combo, muffin. Lunch: pork rib sandwich, tri-taters.

**Tuesday:** Breakfast: breakfast pizza. Lunch: popcorn chicken.

**Wednesday:** Breakfast: fruit turnovers. Lunch: fish sticks, mac/cheese.

**Thursday:** Breakfast: sausage, waffle. Lunch: baked ham, peas.

**Friday:** Breakfast: French-toast sticks. Lunch: cheese pizza, corn.



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