



**THE DECATUR COMMUNITY JUNIOR HIGH CHOIR** practiced in the vocal room with Director Susan Nelson before taking the stage in the auditorium

to present its part of the junior high concert and music festival last Tuesday night.

## Judges add touch of reality to music night

Music filled the west wing of the high school Tuesday as Decatur Community Junior High students sang and played for their parents, friends, teachers and a couple of visitors.

Two Norton music teachers, school vocal director Tamra Cochran and retired band director David Will, came over to judge the young musicians for a makeup music festival.

The Oberlin students were supposed to attend a regional music contest in Colby on Feb. 22, when a major storm forced its cancellation.

Oberlin choir director Susan Nelson and band director Sarah Bricker decided to make sure their students had the experience of performing before a judge and audience and a second opinion on their efforts.

The evening began with the junior high choir performing on stage at the high school auditorium. Then

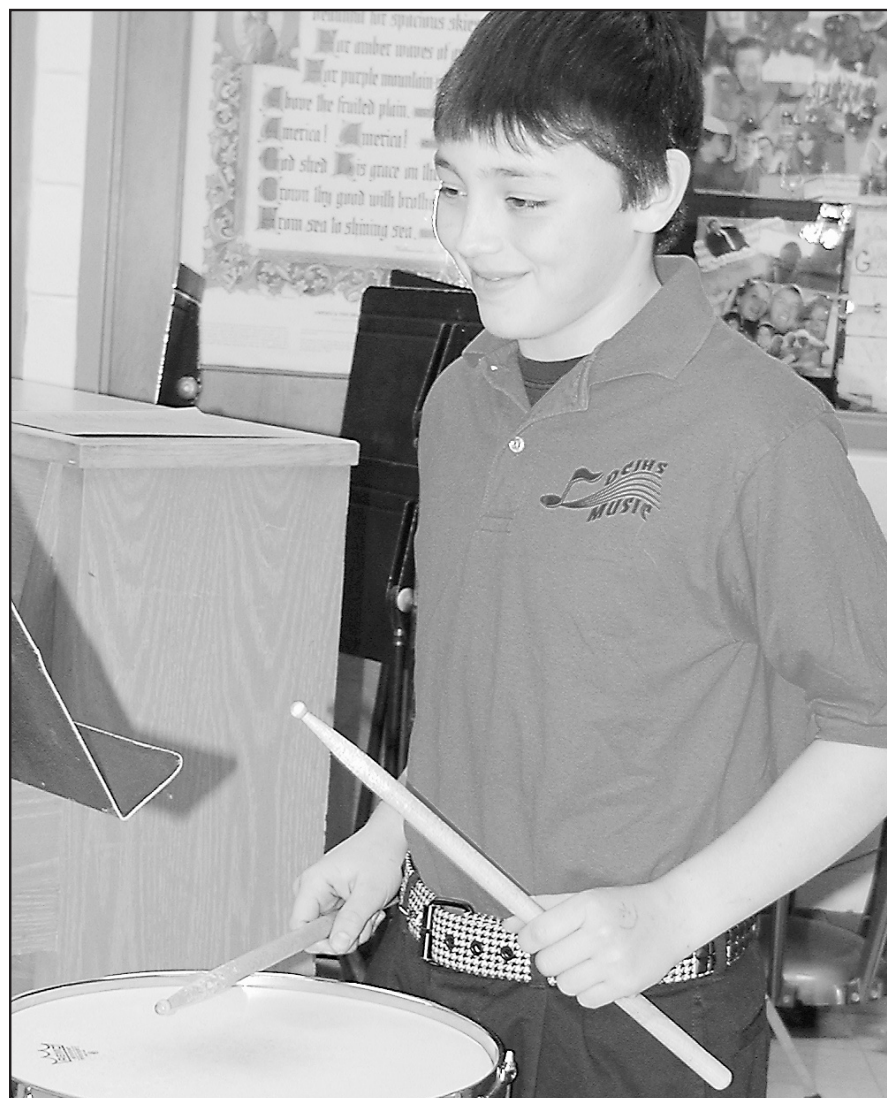
singers headed for the vocal room and instrumentalists went to the band room. Several students performed more than once as soloists, members of the choir and ensembles and with an instrument.

In the band room, Mr. Will listened to each performance from the back of the room then went forward and offered corrections and advice to each young performer.

Over in the vocal room, Ms. Cochran did the same for the singers.

Besides the soloists, the seventh-grade girls, eighth-grade girls and seventh and eighth-grade boys ensembles sang for Ms. Cochran. Students performed on the drums, clarinet, bass clarinet, trumpet, flute, saxophone, trombone and piano.

It made for a long, but enjoyable musical night.



**EIGHTH GRADER GAVIN GOMEZ** (above) prepared to play his drum for former Norton band director David Will. Meanwhile, Sierra Hendrickson (below, right) assembled her flute in preparation for her performance. Trevor Bruhn (below, left) played his bass clarinet while Caleb Koerperich accompanied him on the piano.



– Story and photos by Cynthia Haynes