

TUNED UP below At the Winter orchestra concert, senior Sam Gill sits next to senior Hazel Ecklund-Johnson. "During the concert we help each other out if someone has a string that slips," Ecklund-Johnson said. "I'm pretty good at tuning with pegs and stuff so I try to help people out when I can." **photo by Emmy Barrett**

FAKE IT 'TIL YOU MAKE IT below After finishing a song everyone was nervous about, Leniah Ward laughs with her friend. "We were discussing how the piece went after finishing it," Ward said. "I think I was laughing, but it was definitely because I was nervous and I don't think I was too happy about that piece." **photo by Megan Sederquist**



NEW DYNAMICS

A LOOK INTO THE DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES OF A SENIOR AND FRESHMAN ON WHAT SEATS THEY WERE GIVEN FOR THEIR WINTER CONCERT

SENIOR

She grabbed her violin case as the bell rang — the first rehearsal had started. She found her chair in the back row of the violin section, a place senior Reagan Solenberger wasn't familiar with. Three rows in front of Solenberger sat a freshman. The seat of the concertmaster.

Why isn't that me?

She knew being concertmaster required perfection. And that's what she strived to be.

Solenberger thought that it was finally her year to get the seat of concertmaster. But it wasn't.

A freshman sat in the chair that Solenberger had wanted so badly. It was the chair that was placed front and center, closest to the conductor, to the audience and to all of the orchestra.

"I've taken it as a learning experience, and I just need to learn how to eat my words and swallow my own pride," Solenberger said. "I can share the spotlight for one second, it's going to be okay."

After performing at the Winter Concert, Solenberger listened to the applause from the audience. She couldn't help but feel disappointed, not in the orchestra, but in herself. All she could remember from "Sleigh Ride" were the times she was offbeat — she was far from perfect.

Solenberger looked three rows forward to the freshman sitting in the first chair — she was perfect. She hit every note, on time, every time and Solenberger wasn't the only one who noticed. The crowd was going crazy. The concert was a success — it made Solenberger finally realize: the freshman deserved to be in that chair, even if that meant she was in front of her.

FRESHMAN

Her fingers were calloused from pressing on the strings over and over again. She had practiced "Sleigh Ride" every day this week on her violin for at least 30 minutes. Freshman Emma Walker couldn't stop. She needed to be better and to be in the front where she belonged.

A couple of weeks later the list came out. Her name was at the top. The list was all everyone could think and talk about. She could hear the conversation between two seniors three rows behind her. One of them was talking about how she was disappointed in her tryout and how she was better than Walker.

She understood where the senior was coming from. Freshmen had never been allowed into the honors orchestra class until this year. And now that they had, Walker, one of three other freshmen who made it, was leading her class through "Sleigh Ride" as concertmaster. She had taken some of the seniors' spots and while she realized that, she also knew she deserved the spot.

Walker slid her bow across her violin string and her last note rang out into the auditorium. That was the last time she would play "Sleigh Ride". It sounded so much better than she had expected.

In rehearsal, it was usually hard to play the last note because the whole orchestra had to play the note together after a long pause. But she had counted every second of the rest and nailed it. She instantly felt pride in that moment and she knew she wanted that feeling again.

The feeling of being in the first chair with the spotlights shining down onto her face and the crowd at her side watching her.



SCREAM TEAM above Practicing for orchestra's Halloween Concert, junior Stella Lindberg participates in a screaming contest. "In the song, there is a scream section, and a lot of people wanted to do the scream part so we held auditions," Lindberg said. "I really wanted to be the scream part so I tried really hard and that is why the people in the background look disheveled and shocked." **photo by Campbell Alldredge**



"I decided to do an essay about the Holocaust [in my English class]. We do three creative projects. So one of my projects is going to be a piece about the Holocaust. It's going to be a lot more sad, some hopeful, but more sad than my first piece which was a lot more joyous."

JENNA TRAST | 10

APPLYING MUSIC

SOPHOMORE JENNA TRAST USES HER KNOWLEDGE OF COMPOSING MUSIC FOR HER OTHER SCHOOL PROJECTS

THROWING SUDS below At the Orchestra Car Wash, sophomore Addy Pond throws soap at, senior Grace Cure. "I actually expected it to be slow and boring but it was a lot more fun," Pond said. "It was entertaining to see the people that came through." **photo by Josie Mangine**

HANDS ON very bottom Listening to his teacher give instructions, freshman Muhamad Marawi laughs with his friend Henry Workmen during an orchestra class. "[Orchestra] is different from any core class," Marawi said. "You're doing something with your hands instead of just taking notes and learning." **photo by Emmy Barrett**



IF YOU HAD A CHOICE, WOULD YOU PICK THE SAME INSTRUMENT?
"I would have picked an instrument like the violin that is a bit more exciting."
REAGAN SCHNEIDER | 10