

Bloomfield Teacher Revitalizes School's Music Program



■ Photos courtesy of Lydia Ford

Ab, the trumpet...

Alone, the trumpet commands great respect as the only musical instrument to be able to play the military tune of dusk and mourning, "Taps," as it was written. When set inside the brass section of a band, the trumpet's showy pitch sets perfectly against the softer tones of the woodwinds, the steady beats of percussion, and the dainty chimes of a xylophone.

Perhaps it's because her older brothers played it, or because she pretended to play it as a young child, or simply because her parents wouldn't have to purchase a new instrument, but the trumpet was always the first choice for Sheila Pinkelman when she was a fifth grader at Coleridge Community Schools, eagerly waiting to start the band program. It was the trumpet that began her path toward a career in music and teaching. Changing lives both for the young and old.

Or was it?

Early Roots

"I have had a love of music for as long as I can remember. Looking back on my childhood, I remember how my sister and I would watch Disney movie after Disney movie and sing every song right along with our favorite Disney characters," not unlike so many children, said Sheila Lange, having since married a farmer from Fordyce, Neb. She and her five siblings would accompany her parents to their church choir practices, deepening a family love of music. In elementary, Lange's favorite subject was music, so joining the band was a natural move for her. But it was not particularly easy.

"I was not top of the class," Lange said.

By eighth grade, however, she had worked her way up to first chair, which is where she stayed until she graduated.

Throughout junior high and high school, she also tried out for many honor bands and honor choirs, further strengthening her love for making music.

"It wasn't just listening to the music," Lange said. "It was being a part of a larger group that creates the music that I love so much; all of

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