

# WOKSAPE

“The Wise Book”

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## First Semester Thoughts

BY HOLLY HICKS

One-fourth of the school year is complete. Does that cause regret of missing out on an opportunity or calm feelings of accomplishment for using precious time wisely?

It seems like the school year always flies by in the blink of an eye. Some students may think the faster the year goes, the better, but it can also mean missing critical moments and memories. The high school's first nine-week quarter wrapped up on October 15th. With half of the semester under students' belts, I believe it is a good time to take a peek into the frantically busy life of a typical high school student.

When the school year first started up after the relaxing summer break, getting up earlier than the sun was not pleasant. By now, most students have gotten used to waking up early. Going to classes all day is tiring, but when teachers truly try to make a difference in our lives, clas-

ses become vessels of opportunity. In my experiences, witnessing the spark of passion in my teachers' eyes causes me to be more open to all the possibilities the world has for us young people.

The first quarter has come to an end, and most students have developed a routine with school being the main event. However, sports, clubs, and numerous other activities are also taking place. Yankton High School has a vast variety of extracurricular activities in which all types of students can participate. As a sophomore now, I can say I would strongly advise freshmen to get involved with different groups. Being a part of a variety of activities builds a bridge for meeting new people and discovering skills that may have been hidden before.

Sometimes high school kids get a negative reputation as a whole for being lazy or unpleasant. I would have to disagree with this

stereotype. When I look around me, I see all the students from situations unlike anyone else's and possessing all these talents to build the world into a grand place.

Returning to school was a drag at first and can honestly still be a drag at times, but without the opportunity to go to high school I don't know where I would be.

I am thankful for the experiences I have had while attending Yankton High School. With the first quarter done, coming back to school made me realize the endless number of opportunities lurking in the halls and classrooms. I hope by the time the bells rings on the last day of this school year, I have discovered a new opportunity to better myself and my future.

Three-fourths of the year to go. How will the year end for you?

## Marching Band Making Strides

BY ASHLYNN SCHWARZ

Marching band season is back and better than ever!

The theme for the 2015 Marching Corps is “24601,” based on the popular musical and movie, *Les Misérables*. The show includes the popular songs “Do You Hear the People Sing?,” “Work Song,” “At the End of the Day,” “Master of the House,” “I Dreamed a Dream,” and “One Day More.”

The show includes the band members starting in a symmetrical set, moving in as they sing the song “Do You Hear the People Sing?” The band then moves into the songs “Work Song” and “At the End of the Day.” Next they move to an upbeat, fun, and full-of-character song, “Master of the House,” where the band adds some animation with the drum break. After that they move to the heartbreaking song “I Dreamed a Dream.” The band uses the sets and climaxing musicality to tell the story of a character whose life has met ruin. Finally, the band comes together as one to come out with the final emotional number, “One Day More.”

The YHS Marching Corps have already competed in the Tri-State and Big Sioux competitions. In Tri-State they competed in both the parade and field show. In Big Sioux they competed in the field show. They also competed in the parade and field shows in the Festival of Bands on October 3rd.

The participating YHS musicians and color guard members worked on their marching technique almost every week during summer vacation to make sure the show exhibits cleanness and emotion.

This year, the marching band only has one drum major from the previous year, senior Mikayla Trenhaile, and she now acts as head drum major. She works with Mr. Carr to help the band become better. Other drum majors include senior Ashley VanMeeteren, junior Kelsey Westerman, and junior Avery Brockberg.

The marching band has also been rehearsing for the past couple of weeks to get prepared for the annual Indoor Marching Show. The show will be performed on November 5th at YHS. It will include all section introductions, the 2015 marching show, a performance by the YMS marching band, and more. The marching band members hope you will join them in a night of fun and entertainment.



## Q&A with Carr and Trenhaile

BY ASHLYNN SCHWARZ

I interviewed band director Mr. Todd Carr about his perspective of the band this year and in years past.

Q: What changes have you seen so far in the band?  
A: The band is getting bigger! We have 133 in the regular band and 113 in the marching corps.

Q: What are your hopes, as a director, for the band in the post-season?  
A: My greatest hope is that every person in the Corps comes out the other side of it feeling more confident in themselves, knowing how to find, accept, and excel in their role in a large project, such as the Marching Corps, and to be a better musician and community member because of it.

Q: What was one of your main motivations to have the theme be “24601” this season?  
A: When I was throwing out ideas for the show a couple years ago, *Les Misérables* was an instant favorite. Hugh Jackman is one of my favorite actors of all time, and the music was incredible. It was a grand slam from the get-go.

Q: What have been some of your favorite moments so far this season?  
A: The color guard's amazing costumes, the overall attitude of the band just after the homecoming performance, the incredible warm up in Brandon, and every time I felt a tear come to my eye, a goosebump or the hairs rising on the back of my neck because something looked and/or sounded amazing.

Q: And finally what is your advice to all the band members to keep them moving forward?  
A: Every moment is a step toward something. Where you end up is a direct result of your next step.

I also interviewed senior Mikayla Trenhaile to get her point of view on how the band has been doing.

Q: What motivated you to become a drum major?  
A: I wanted to be a drum major because during my freshman and sophomore years I saw how influential the drum majors are to the band, and I wanted to share my passion and love of marching band with others.

Q: What are your hopes for the band as a whole?  
A: My biggest hope is that the band completely unites together and creates the most amazing and spectacular show.

Q: What has been your favorite part of marching band so far?  
A: My favorite part of marching band is seeing everyone working together to fix a problem, whether it be in the music or marching on the field, and seeing the excitement that comes with the resolution.

Q: What other activities are you involved in?  
A: I am heavily involved with chorus, and I also love to perform on stage for fall play, one act, and spring musical.

Q: What are your hopes for the band in the post-season?  
A: I hope that the band members continue to work hard at improving themselves as musicians and take the desire to work hard and improve from the marching field to the band room.

Q: What is your favorite part of the show this year, and why?  
A: My favorite part of the show would have to be the fourth song because during the company front, it's so incredible to see the band shoulder-to-shoulder and hear the incredible sound that they can make together.

Q: And finally, what is your happiest memory in marching band?  
A: My happiest moment in marching band would be the very first music rehearsal of my senior year. It was so cool to hear the band and think, “These guys are great! I can't wait for this season to get going!” I think my senior year in marching band will definitely end on a high note.



PHOTOS BY MANNY VALADEZ / ARICKARA

Above and below: The YHS Marching Corps marches at the Tri-State Competition.  
At left: Senior drum major Ashley VanMeeteren conducts during the Festival of Bands.



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