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Eastern Speech and Music Winners

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Speech, Music Get Eastern High Rating

It is no coincidence when a school of only 190 students wins 11 first division ratings in the state music finals and places second in the state speech contest. That is just what has happened, however, at Eastern State high, the little school which serves as a laboratory for student teachers at Eastern.

The same thing has happened before, and each time it does Charleston parents get just as excited as their neighbors at Paris do when the team brings home a state basketball championship.

The Eastern State Vikings, members of the Eastern Illinois High School League, are not greatly feared in football. Ordinarily they do little better in basketball, although this year the team was rated in the upper quarter of league teams.

But when "TC" youngsters start orating, singing, or playing an instrument, the judges sit up and take notice.

The secret of Eastern State's remarkable music and speech success over a period of years probably lies chiefly in emphasis, in the caliber of instruction, and in the system of "practice teaching" employed by the college music department.

At present the high school music director is Earl Boyd, who is just one summer away from a doctor's degree in music. Working under him are nine "practice teachers." This means that nine college music majors are available to help the high school students prepare their contest entries.

At Eastern all music majors get a full year of experience in teaching. Three months are spent in the campus elementary school, three months with high school band, and three months with high school chorus work.

Very few elementary schools of the size of the college "training school" have an orchestra, but there is a very fine one at Eastern. There is a well planned music program from grade one right through grade eight. When other schools talk of training their basketball players from grade one, Eastern believes in providing music opportunity from grade one. Almost the same thing is true in speech. Children are encouraged in self-expression from the very beginning.

The 1948 contest record is probably better than any previous one, both in music and speech. Eastern State speakers have won at least one banner a season, however, since speech was introduced in the high school in 1936 by Miss Roberta Poos. Furthermore, the school has always had at least one entry a year in the final state speech tournament. Last year there were five individual entries and a debate team, and the school won three banners during the season.

This year the speech group won two banners, one as first in the district contest, Class B, at Champaign; and the other as first place winner, Class B, in debate. Chris Russell is the first individual from Eastern to win a first in the state. He did it this year in one of the sections that high school students usually find most difficult, extemporaneous speaking. Norma Metter of Eastern was third in verse speaking and Marilyn Clark was third in original oration.

These victories gave Eastern State 11 points, just one short of Du Quoin's winning 12. Du Quoin is, of course, a school of more than twice Eastern State's enrollment and has a long and fine tradition.

Students in the Eastern State speech team are as follows: Chris Russell, Norma Metter, Dr. Archie R. Ayers, and Marilyn Clark.

EASTERN SPEECH AND MUSIC WINNERS



These speech students are, left to right, Norma Metter, Miss Roberta Poos, Chris Russell, Dr. Archie R. Ayers, and Marilyn Clark. These are the persons mainly responsible for Eastern State high's second place in the state speech contest last month. Miss Metter not only won third place in state final verse reading, but was a member of the debate team which won a sectional championship (see banner). Other debate team members were Dwight Bickel, Val Coleman, and John Swickard. Roy Gruenewald, an Eastern graduate in 1938, coached the team. Chris Russell brought home the first number one in state finals for Eastern State high, taking first in extempore speaking. Miss Clark was third in original oratory.



These are solo and ensemble winners in the state finals of the Illinois High School association music contests held on the college campus last week. Left to right, rear, Dwight Bickel, Burton Barnes, Richard Dickerson, Don Klingler, Chris Russell, and John Swickard.

Front, Anna Bruce, Annette Tolly, Marjorie Swickard, Phyllis Phipps, and Earl Boyd.

Winners not shown are Bob Zeigel, Ann Rothschild, and William Trexler.



A student teacher, Herbert Lee, gives one of the Eastern State high winners, John Swickard, a few pointers in voice. John competed in two individual and two group events in the music finals. His cousin, Marjorie Swickard, a double first place winner, lays the accompaniment.