

In The Music Department

Voice . . . Some people strive for success and others for fame, but we vocal students strive for high notes. We feel that if we learn to master them with as much ease and smoothness as our instructor, Miss Hennig, does, success is our side-kick.

We learn many valuable things about music that profit us greatly. First, it is really necessary to open our mouths in order to let the sound out. Some of the sounds that come make the instructor wish she had taught us to keep our mouths shut and conceal the sound.

We also profit by learning the proper way of breathing, which is not only beneficial to the singing but also the health.

We try to do justice to a note by giving it its proper pitch, tone and time value. When we have mastered all these we go through the agony of singing in Assembly.

Perhaps none of us will be able to follow in the footsteps of Grace Moore, but we will be able to assist in the field of music in our home communities.

Piano . . . Students at the Northwest School are offered an excellent opportunity to study the piano, an instrument of home and community value. We find few students entering the school having memorized piano selections or having appeared in any public performances. Memory of several selections, in this course, is stressed and before leaving this school the piano student has also accomplished sight reading of music.

Ample opportunity is given piano students to expand in instrumental experience. First of all we may state that the auditorium is equipped with a Steinway Grand piano, which is used for all performances. Many weekly programs and special programs provide occasions for solo work. Each spring two formal music recitals are arranged, at which time the advanced piano students are presented, playing classical compositions by memory. In addition to this, four students accompany their respective classes for the annual song contest, and students preside at the piano for hymn playing on the weekly Sunday evening programs. The rank of the year's work is reached by way of a special recognition awarded at the Commencement Exercises to the student who has made the greatest progress in piano study during the entire school year.

Violin . . . The violin, king of all stringed instruments, is accepted as being one of the three most difficult instruments to master. These three are violin, cello and harp. The violin is difficult mainly because of the difficult technique involved.

At this school we have been very fortunate to have Miss Grace Warne as our instructor in violin. Being a very fine violinist herself, and possessing a likeable and pleasant personality, she is very understanding and a very capable teacher and everyone who has taken lessons from her comments about her many fine talents.

In all, sixteen students registered for instruction in violin, and many of these students are heard at numerous programs, in solos and duets; and violins make up the major section of the school orchestra.

The one big performance comes during commencement week, when one evening is devoted to a Concert Recital, in which the more advanced students of each music department perform.

Each year a scholarship of seven dollars to be applied on music lessons is given to some worthy student who has made the greatest progress. This stimulates more interest in violin and gives students a goal at which to aim.