

## West High chorus is 'super'



West High School Chamber Choir members are: (front) Blaine Coyle, Emily Riggs, Sarah Arbieter, Kelli Reese, Zaneta Keith, Elise Bianconi, Pauline Hanset, Samantha Jones; (second row) Mia Wallace, Samantha Roop, Damamli Hopkin-Peters, Jessica Wilson; (back) Grant Gentry, Taber Gable, Drishaud Hall, Anthony Berry, Preston Williams, Molefi Hopkin-Peters, William Buckenmyer and Zach Bielak. Not pictured are: William "Brad" Reid, James Peck, Kendall Ellis, Abbey Roberts and Carrington Glasgow. Photos by Betty Bean

### By Betty Bean

The West High School Chamber Chorus has had a super semester, says director Byron Davis.

"We took seven kids to All-East and two kids made All-State. Brandon Davis, a senior, made it for the second time and Blaine Coyle made it as a 10th grader, so we're really happy about that," he said.

Davis has also been able to increase the size of the Chamber Chorus, his top group consisting of sophomores, juniors and seniors, from 16 to 30.

"We have focused a lot on sight reading and training in preparation for our spring festival," he said.

He's proud of all the above, but he's extra-happy with the success of the holiday concert, which was a joint band/chorus event.

"The bright moment was our holiday concert. For the finale, we had 65 students singing. There were 60 in the band all on stage together for the medley."

The conductor? Principal Greg Roach, who was the band director at Powell High School before he became a principal.

"It was very well-received," Davis said. "It's going to be a new tradition for us to keep."

Last Monday, Davis was at school until late at night doing casting auditions for a

big production of the "Wizard of Oz" that the chorus will do jointly with the theater department. He teaches two beginning classes as well as his chamber class and stays very busy.

He has been at West High School for two years now after spending six years in full-time church work, which he says he enjoyed.

"But I love West. I have done more pastoring in the last two years. At West, we have close contact with needy people on a daily basis, and I'm doing more real pastoring and shepherding than I did in my church work.

"The diversity of this school is so interesting. It



Choir director Byron Davis

sits on the railroad tracks actually and metaphorically. We have extremely wealthy kids and extremely poor kids and the chorus program gets them all in the same class. I love how they work together in those situations."