

'Idol' dreams still loom large in Chippewa Valley



Brianna Collins won first place in the 2015 “Chippewa Valley District Idol” competition. Auditions for this year’s “Chippewa Valley District Idol” and “Idol Jr.” competitions were held on March 10.

By Nicole Tuttle , For The Macomb Daily
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Elizabeth Aversa won second place in the 2015 “Chippewa Valley District Idol” competition. This year’s competition will be held on March 21.

“American Idol” may be in its final season, but interest in becoming a local star remained high at Dakota High School earlier this month when over 100 students auditioned for “Chippewa Valley District Idol” and “Idol Jr.”

“We are seeing a decline in the middle school interest, however we have seen an increase in the high school interest. We are thinking about what we can do to continue providing another outlet for students to perform and maybe changing it up a little for next year,” “Chippewa Valley District Idol” Chairperson Michelle Wygocki said.

The “Chippewa Valley District Idol” and “Chippewa Valley District Idol Jr.” competitions are open to all Chippewa Valley School district students. Students in grades 9-12 can enter “Chippewa Valley District Idol” and students in grades six to eight can enter “Idol Jr.”

Auditions were held on March 10 in the choir room of Dakota High School in Macomb Township. Students paid a \$1 fee to sing a cappella for a time frame of 30 seconds to one minute before a panel of music judges, who made the selections for the shows.

Wygocki said 40 students tried out for “Chippewa Valley District Idol” and 62 for “Idol Jr.” Judges included Dr. Stuart Scott, Chris Brody and Deena Shields-Heilig. The judges selected 22 students for the “Idol” competition and 25 for “Idol Jr.”

“The only students that cannot audition again are the first place winners for that competition. However, if you were the winner of the ‘Jr. Idol’ and are now in high school, you are eligible to audition and compete for the high school ‘Idol’ competition,” Wygocki said.

The “Chippewa Valley District Idol” competition will be held Monday and “Chippewa Valley District Idol Jr.” Tuesday. Both shows are held at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$8 at the Dakota High School box office before each show, and each show will be held in Dakota’s auditorium.

“Chippewa Valley District Idol” contestants will sing for three minutes apiece and “Idol Jr.” contestants for 2.5 minutes apiece. Students must submit their music to Dakota High School Director of Choral Activities Todd Moses prior to the show.

Winners of the two competitions are determined by audience votes. The audience votes for their favorite competitors via Scantron ballots, and are allowed two votes per person, according to Wygocki. First place “Chippewa Valley District Idol” winners can earn \$100, second place \$50 and third place \$25. “Idol Jr.”’s first place winner will receive \$50, the second place winner \$30, and the third place winner \$20.

Funds raised through the “Chippewa Valley District Idol” event will benefit Dakota’s choirs and funds raised through “Idol Jr.” will benefit the choirs of Dakota High School and Seneca Middle School, Wygocki said. Auditions alone raised \$102 for Dakota choirs, and the goal is to raise between \$2,500 and \$3,000 through the two competitions, according to Wygocki.