

# Oh Say Can You See

By Michaela Forkenbrock and Brittani VanWinkle

Often times, the Lyndon High/Middle School Pep Band plays the National Anthem at home athletic events, but on occasion, elite Lyndon High School choir members will take the stage and sing the tune in front of a crowd of fans. To Grace Spencer and Emma Kate Unruh, the event is quite special.

Honoring her country and singing in front of people are what makes Grace excited to sing. She describes this feeling as “really sweet.” Grace spends the week prior to the performance practicing and singing through the song as much as she needs until she feels comfortable with it.

The first time Grace sang the National Anthem was at the Flint Hills League Shootout in 6th grade. When asked what made her want to sing the National Anthem, Grace replied, “The first time I sang at a sporting event, it was probably spurred on by my dad mentioning that they needed someone to do it. I’ve always loved being in front of people, so after the first time, I just thought it was fun and wanted to do it again.” She added, “The coolest experience I’ve had with singing the National Anthem was at State Track my sophomore year. I got to sing, and sign, in front of over 10,000 people, which was incredible.”

Grace plans to continue her singing career. “I’ve been invited to go sing at ESU games, so it’ll be sweet to get to do that, along with any other events that pop up.” She believes that singing is a good way to continue to put yourself out there.

This experience is not the same for everyone. Junior choir member Emma Kate, who is not involved in any sports as a team member, believes that singing the National Anthem is her contribution to the school on game days. Before each performance, Emma Kate depicts which key best fits her voice that day and warms up her vocal range. As opposed to Grace, Emma Kate feels as if singing in front of people is exhilarating and nerve racking. “My arms tend to go numb when I get nervous and sing so I was terrified that I would drop the mic.”

Emma Kate has sang at all of the home football games, but one, and two basketball games. She plans to continue singing and have the opportunity to sing at whatever college she ends up at for their home games.

The Lyndon community loves to hear them sing and would like to wish continued success to them both in their future endeavours.