

By Bill Gengenbach of the Carroll County Review

### **WEST CARROLL MUSIC DEPARTMENT MAKES IT TWO IN A ROW**

For the second consecutive year, the West Carroll High School Music Department was the top ranking school in the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Music Sweepstakes in Class B competition for 2010-11.

West Carroll compiled a total of 807 points, besting Herscher High School's total of 795 and Macomb High School of 786. West Carroll was second to Macomb after the solo and ensemble contest held at West Carroll High School but came from behind with 300 maximum points in the organization contest that was held at Forreton High School. Last year West Carroll had 783 points and the music teachers are wearing T-shirts depicting those scores.

The music department at West Carroll has 122 students participating and all of them competed at one or both of the contest events. Students received 61 Division I ratings at the solo and ensemble contest and 55 Division II ratings. Three of the entries received 'best of the day' recognition, Mark Miller, piano solo; the percussion choir and a percussion duet, Miller and Austin Saunders.

Four instrumental groups competed in the organization contest with the concert band and jazz band each receiving Division I ratings and the jazz combo a Division II rating. All four choral groups received Division I ratings, the concert choir, women's choir, men's choir and the jazz choir.

This is the fifth year West Carroll has received a trophy for being in the top three schools in the sweepstake class. The school placed second in 2007, third in 2008, second in 2009 and first in 2010 and 2011. There are five classes for the sweepstakes awards based on enrollment. The classes are AA, A, B, C and D.

"We are extremely proud of our music department. The staff and students have worked very hard and brought our school some excellent recognition," said Superintendent Craig Mathers. "We hope they will continue the hard work and dedication in future years."

West Carroll Athletic Director, Paul Tobin, added, "We congratulate the students who have earned this honor and to the music teachers who work so hard to provide their students with the opportunity to excel. This is a tremendous accomplishment to be very proud of."

Emily Bressler is the West Carroll High School instrumental director and Scott Mattison is the vocal director.