



By Carolyn Lee

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As of Monday, Amanda Morris had only student taught at Chase County Schools for two days, so she doesn't have much of an impression about student teaching. However, music is in her soul.

Morris, 22, is teaching both vocal and instrumental music to all grades. She is a senior at Chadron State College majoring in K-12 music education.

Hoping to graduate this spring, Morris will be at CCS until May. A student teacher needs 16 weeks of classroom experience.

Morris began playing the piano when she was three years old. She also plays clarinet and violin.

"I come from a family of educators. With music it was really natural, because my mother and her husband both teach music."

As the child of music teachers, Morris said it was expected of her to become involved in band, choir, show choir and orchestra in school. She was born in Chadron, but her family moved around frequently, mainly in Nebraska and Iowa.

Morris' mother is currently teaching K-12 music in Hyannis. Morris has a one-year-old son, Elijah.

The student teacher planned to major in journalism her freshman year at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. "I bombed. I was trying to rebel" against the family music education background, she said.

Morris said she immediately felt as if music education was her destiny when she switched to that major at Chadron State.

So far at CCS she has been observing and helping music teachers Amy Walworth, Randy Hayes and Agnes Strand.