

Leadership takes on many faces.

The face of INTEGRITY
QUIET INFLUENCE
PERSEVERANCE
CHARISMA
SERVICE

A collective group of people with various leadership abilities, working together, can do some pretty great things. Take music for example. I had the opportunity to judge the state music festival this past week in the state where I live.

This photo is the Malta High School flute choir. Malta, Montana is in the northern part of the state, with a population of slightly less than 2,000 people and a high school of around 200. There are 14 or so teachers at the high school.

Erik is the band director. Like all stellar music instructors, he teaches many things to get to a quality music performance. Respect and kindness are two of those things that go hand in hand with technical music skills. Erik mentors his students from the first day of class as a beginning band student. Collaboration. Citizenship. Communication. Modeling the Way. Representing the Group.

Mentored well, ALL students can be leaders, from the most quiet to the gregarious! The Malta High School flute choir is a good example of blended leadership. I wish you could have heard them. Sensitive and accurate, their performance was a joy to hear. And that's not all. You should have seen them communicate with their eyes, body language, and ears. Each student has different personality characteristics and musical strengths, but collectively they produce one fine product.

The story isn't only about music, but music is one academic subject that can mentor respect, kindness, collaboration, communication. These students will eventually be parents, citizens, professionals, and members of our world society. Because of good mentoring on the part of people like Erik, they have now become mentors themselves! And these leadership skills are evident in things like a good music performance today. And changing the world tomorrow.