

Seventh grade girl takes dance seriously

By ELLA WAGENKNECHT

Typically, students at Mead High School would never look into the dance world, but for seventh grader Ayslee Anderson, that’s her whole life.

Anderson started dancing at an early age when her mom, Hannah Anderson, put her into dance. Anderson has been dancing ever since.

Anderson now spends most of her nights dancing at Wahoo Dance Academy in Wahoo, Neb. With about 10 classes a week, she is busy.

“I normally balance my days with family time after classes,” Anderson said.

Anderson takes dance very seriously; she takes corrections and listens to feedback closely. She is always improving and making sure her technique is right.

When she dances, you can just see her love for dancing through her dancing, according to her dance instructor, Stephanie Peacock.

“You can see how much she enjoys being in the studio,” Peacock said.

Dancing comes with many opportunities. Anderson travels to cities like Chicago for competitions. Traveling for competition means missing some school, but getting to

compete gives her more opportunities to win and improve.

Anderson’s day on competition days starts early in the morning. They start early so dancers can run through all their dances, put on makeup and costumes, and prepare to go on stage.

“It’s very competitive, and sometimes you feel bad because you don’t always win,” Anderson said.

For Anderson, dancing is a way to calm down whenever she is mad. Dancing is something fun that Anderson enjoys doing. She is hard-working and always tries her best, according to Peacock.

“What’s really special though is that she balances that focus with a genuine love for dance,” Peacock said.

Anderson takes many different classes, but her favorites are ballet and lyrical. She likes ballet because it’s more modern and lyrical because of the movement she gets to do.

She performs a solo in lyrical. Her classes consist of learning the dance, running through it and fixing anything that needs to be fixed. Anderson dances at the senior level, the second-highest level.

“Her dedication and consistency have made a big difference,” Peacock said.

Ella Wagenknecht

Mead High School