

## GETTING WORDY *Students ready for All-State Speech Festival*

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High school students from all over the Gateway area are preparing to perform at the Iowa High School Speech Association All-State Festival at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls on Monday.

Representing Clinton High School will be Kate Struble in Improvisation and Annie Fier in Prose.

Struble, a junior, and Fier, a senior, will be heading to the All-State Festival for the first time on Monday. The pair successfully navigated through the District and State level competitions, receiving high enough scores and special recommendations from judges to earn a spot in Cedar Falls.

The two are now in the preparation stages before they perform in front of their peers Monday.

"For my event, which is improv, I can try to prepare for the event by doing different scenarios, but it's tough because the judges give them to you on the spot," Struble said. "I don't have a lot of things to practice that I for sure know will be there, so that's kind of nerve-wracking." "My thing is almost like a comedy bit, so as long as I see that people are laughing, I'll be OK," Fier said. "As long as I get in there and tell the first joke and people are getting a laugh, it will be good." Instructor Kyle Boeve said the All-State level, while the highest level the students will reach, is less of a competition and more of a celebration of the achievements of the young performers. That's alright with Struble and Fier.

"I know it will be intense, but the speech community is so supportive," Struble said. "Even if you don't go to the same school, you can all support each other and cheer each other on."



**Clinton High School junior Kate Struble, 16, practices her improvisation speech on Tuesday for the Iowa High School Speech Association All-State Festival.**

Performing with the best-of- the-best will certainly have its perks, as well.

"I'm really looking forward to getting the opportunity to watch other people and that will allow me to find out where I can improve myself," Fier said.

The Clinton performers will be joined by Camanche High School students Noah Bohannon (After Dinner Speaking) and Kirsten Franks (Prose).

Central DeWitt will send individual performers Hannah Dennis (Acting), Sarah Watson (After Dinner Speaking and Original Oratory), Gretchen Lenth (Improvisation), Hope Petersen (Literary Program), Jonathan Green (Radio News Announcing), Abbey Strong (Reviewing), and Hannah Butler (Reviewing).

Northeast High School will send Ethan Ruchotzke (Acting), Jacey House (Public Address), Amanda Porras (Prose), Caragan Murphy (Solo Music Theatre), Maddie Kaczinski (Solo Music Theatre), and Laura Richards (Public Address).



**Clinton High School senior Annie Fier, 18, practices her prose speech on Tuesday for the Iowa High School Speech Association All-State Festival that will be Monday at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls.**

Rachael Keating/Clinton Herald