CARLISLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Love of music is in the wind

A new Dickinson College program gives Carlisle students a look at different sides of music.

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Carlisle High School music students spent their last period Friday listening to five people blowing hot air—but they weren’t teachers squeezing in a few more lessons before the weekend.

The five were members of a wind quintet from Dickinson College, and they played in an assembly that was the first in a series of performances and clinics planned by the college and the Carlisle Area School District.

Dickinson has started a music outreach program to expose K-12 students to different aspects of music.

"The idea is to bring the high-quality music to the students," said Blanka Bednarz, an associate professor of music at Dickinson.

"Their families may not always have the opportunity to bring the students to concerts. So we’ll bring it to them."

The program also aims to put students in contact with professors at the college who have made a living with music.

Members of the quintet fielded questions from students after the performance.

"When you’re playing a piece that has a groove, when you’re playing music without a conductor, you can’t really talk about what you want to do," clarinet player Elisabeth Stimpert said after a student asked why quintet members swayed and bobbed their instruments as they played.

"You have to show it visually," Stimpert said.

The quintet comprises a musician each on flute, clarinet, bassoon, French horn and oboe. They played movements from Maurice Ravel’s “Le Tombeau de Couperin,” and Paquito d’Rivera’s “Aires Tropicale.”

"How they kept the beat with the bouncing of the instrument bells was really awesome," said Dawn Silkvenac, 16, a junior who plays saxophone.

"I didn’t even know a clarinet could sound like that," said Caitie Smith, 15, a sophomore clarinet player. "I really liked it because of the music and the different styles."

This winter, organizers plan to have a similar concert for brass instruments, and they hope to set up a time for a jazz quintet to play in the spring. Dickinson’s music department hopes to have programs for students in elementary and middle schools as well.

"I think it’s going to be informative," said David Rohrer, Carlisle’s music program chairman. "How many of our high school wind students have heard a wind quintet?"