



Laura Odden is in her eighth year as director of choral studies at Milaca High School. Her duties include the direction of seventh through twelfth grade choirs, Chamber Choir, Student Council Advisor and Olweus Bully Prevention Committee Member.

Ms. Odden is a 2002 graduate of Fergus Falls High School. She was a member of three State Honor Choirs, and sang in the A Cappella Choir and Chamber Singers from her sophomore through senior year.

She began college at Fergus Falls Community College (Now M State-Fergus Falls) earning her Associate of Arts Degree in 2004, where she performed her first formal recital in the Spring of 2004. She traveled to Italy, studying the music, art and culture of the country that summer, after a semester of related coursework. In the fall of 2004, she went on to pursue her love of music by earning a degree in Vocal and Classroom Music Education from Minnesota State University Moorhead in 2007.

While at Moorhead State, Ms. Odden sang in many choirs, competed in solo singing contests and was one of the lead singers for a vocal jazz percussion ensemble, called *Fuego Tropical*. In addition to this, she was a winner of the college-level North Dakota NATS (National Association of Teachers in Singing) competition as well as the Tri-College winner and soloist with the Fargo/Moorhead Symphony Orchestra in 2006.

Upon graduation she was inducted into Pi Kappa Lambda, a music honor society. Ms. Odden is an active member of the NAFME (National Association for Music Educators), and the American Choral Director's Association (ACDA) where she holds the title of Co-Chair for the 9-10 All-State Honor Choirs since 2013. In November of 2015, she was awarded the "Outstanding Young Choral Director" of the year for the state of Minnesota through the American Choral Director's Association.

In December of 2013, Laura completed her Master of Vocal Music Education Degree through the School of Music at North Dakota State University in Fargo, ND. She has specialized in vocal health, and did extensive research on the topic while completing this degree, as her students can easily vouch for. ☺