



## MV Hosts Conference Honor Band

Eighteen students from the Maquoketa Valley High School Band participated in the Tri Rivers Conference Honor Band last night.

The band, directed by Dr. Andrew Mast, the Director of Instrumental Music at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, consisted of 137 musicians from all the schools in the conference.

This year Maquoketa Valley was represented by Seniors Hannah Reth (clarinet), Ashley Kramer (clarinet), Allison Schultz (flute), Abby McDonald (bassoon), Heather Pugh (tenor saxophone), Katie Richter (french horn), CJ Hodges (trombone), Tony Klostermann (trombone), Juniors Kim Nieman (flute), Katie Hoffmann (baritone saxophone), Adam Ries (alto saxophone), Jackie Melchert (tenor saxophone), Brian Schuster (trumpet), Tony Ries (tuba) and Sophomores Allison Offerman (oboe), Kasey Jones (trombone), Jake Lahr (trumpet) and Beth Klostermann (trumpet).



**Front row: Ashley Kramer, Hannah Reth, Allison Schultz, Allison Offermann, Abby McDonald, Katie Hoffmann; Second row: Kim Nieman, CJ Hodges, Tony Klostermann, Kasey Jones, Tony Ries; Third row: Brian Schuster, Beth Klostermann, Jake Lahr, Adam Ries, Katie Richter, Jackie Melchert and Heather Pugh. (photo by Abby Jurgens)**

## Seniors Exercise Political Voices

by Ashley Kramer

All across the nation, several Democratic candidates for President are campaigning to win the Democratic slot. This winning of the Democratic party will mean that one person will run against President Bush for the presidency. To win this spot, the candidates are traveling the nation and meeting their supporters. Also, there are caucuses and primaries, one for each state, to determine which of the candidates each state supports. Iowa is the first state to hold their caucus. It was held on Monday, January 19.

To participate in the caucuses, people who will be 18 by election time go to a predetermined place in their township or precinct. At the caucuses, people show their support for the candidate of their choice. The candidates with the most support in each township get delegates at the county convention. In addition, the results

of each township in Iowa are tallied. The candidate with the most support wins the Iowa caucus.

This year, Mr. Meehan wanted to encourage the seniors to participate in the caucuses, so he gave them the option of going to the caucuses instead of taking a chapter test. Many seniors took advantage of this opportunity to get out of taking a test while supporting a candidate at the same time. The seniors said that going to the caucus was a great experience.

In the end, after all of the results were tallied, candidates John Kerry and John Edwards came out on top. It was also said that this year, statewide, a record was set for the turnout of newly registered voters- meaning that many people in the young adult age group went to the caucuses. The senior class should be proud to know that their voice really does count!

## Semester Recap

by Jessica Krogmann

As everyone is overly well aware of, the first semester is over. Reflecting over the last half year, we've had a lot going on. Starting with the Homecoming festivities, which had its ups and downs, games, the marching band getting a I, student council elections, new teachers, who also had new children, new PE classes, new faces and new classes.

However, the semester bore on and after 18 nearly repetitive weeks, a change was in order.

Now with a new and second semester there are many changes. Again there are many new classes, several seniors have gone out on their own, and finally, there are no huge tests this week.

Of course there are all the things to look forward to with this new semester. There's Valentine's Day, prom, the spring play, golf, more basketball, track, speech and music competitions, FFA sweetheart, ACTs, graduation, and yes finally, the last day of school.

So with the new semester, remember that we have half of a year left, but it's also half over.