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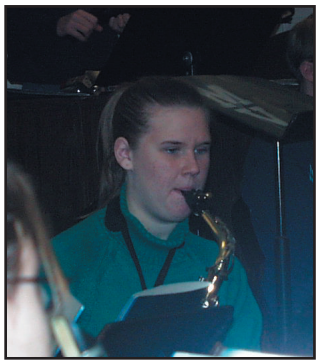
Making the Home School Choice

by Katie Hoffmann

As everyone knows, attending school is not the only way to gain an education. But no one knows this better than Abby Davis. Abby is a freshman, but not at MV. She only comes here for band. Abby is home schooled.

Not many people realize how challenging it is to be home schooled. Abby explained that she is receiving her education from a Christian school in Florida. They send her tapes with 12 lessons on each, that cover her first quarter. The lessons are each one hour long, and the teacher on them usually talks for 40 minutes then gives her time to do her homework or a quiz, whichever is assigned for that day. Abby says that she usually doesn't have any questions because the teachers have to be very thorough when making the tapes.

Abby has to take six required classes this year. They are all the same as the ones required here, except she must also take a history class that is not required here at M.V. It is also required that she has a P.E. class, which is done on her own time at home. For this, Abby can work out with an aerobic tape, go for a walk, or most any kind of physical activity for a certain amount of time. To prove she has done this, both her and her mom must sign a paper saying that Abby has done the required time.



Abby Davis participates in the band even though she is home schooled. (photo by Alecia Bacon)

To be accepted to the school in Florida, Abby had to apply. She said, "It costs quite a bit because it's a private school, but I enjoy it a lot more than high school. I can work at my own pace. One day I can do five English lessons, and the next I can do three algebra lessons. I can also take my lessons at night if I have something to do during the day. It's also nice that I can work ahead in my lessons."

Home schooling isn't new for Abby just this year. Abby was home schooled through 5th grade. She attend M.V. for month, and decided that she like learning at home better, and she finds it more challenging. Her school year ends around the end of May or beginning of June, and that is her deadline for when everything is due back to the school.

The reason you may see Abby here for first hour is because she can take any extra curricular activity she wants. Right now, all she chooses is band, but according to the school in Florida, she can also take art classes, industrial technology classes, and so forth. Next year she's planning on taking a Spanish class, but that will be mailed to her on the tapes.

Abby's older sister is also home schooled, and when she graduates, her parents are planning on traveling down to Florida for the ceremony. If it goes well, they will travel down the next year for Abby's graduation.

Students Participate in Honor Band

Those students selected for NEIBA honor band were Abby McDonald, Ashley Kramer, Brian Schuster, Beth Klostermann, Allison Offerman and Katie Hoffmann.

by Ashley Kramer

Every year in December, students representing each school in the northeast district of Iowa come together and form two NEIBA honor bands. Every school is represented by at least one student. This year, Maquoketa Valley had six people chosen for the honor bands. Five of those six will go to Oelwein tomorrow to participate.

Katie Hoffmann and Beth Klostermann will be playing in the Sousa band. Ashley Kramer, Brian Schuster, and Allison Offerman will represent Maquoketa Valley in the King band. Abby McDonald was accepted, but is unable to participate. Each band will practice all day on Saturday preparing for the concert at 7:00 that night.

In preparation for the concert, the five students have been working on four selections that they will be playing. On Saturday, they will audition for their chair placements by playing portions of each selection in front of a judge. Once the seating arrangement is formed, the bands will practice together as a group for the first time. Saturday night a concert will be giving by the two bands.

Congratulations on the six students that were accepted for the 2003 NorthEast Iowa Bandmaster's Association honor band!