

## Mr. Wager Cues The Band:

# Give Me An "I"!

"I enjoy band because I love playing music and having togetherness," stated Deann Gross. If

you've ever listened to the Ashley High School band, you probably would love music, too. This year the band set a level of excellence that will be a challenge for bands in the coming years to maintain. The Dansville Marching Band

Invitational Competition was definitely an exciting example of the bands' high performance.

Third year band director, Mr. Cal Wager, said that the competition was, by far, the most exciting moment of the year. "This was the first time an Ashley marching unit has gone to any competition, and for us to come home with three first place awards is really a super achievement," he said. Mr. Wager likes the closeness between the students and him, and the students with each other. "The attitude of the kids towards band is really improving; it could be better but it's getting there."

Deann Gross and Cara Burk both agreed that band was "a lot of fun — especially bus trips!"

Mr. Wager emphasized that the band's future goal was to get straight "I's" at festival and stated that it was "very possible." The band has set a trend of impressive accomplishments for themselves which, hopefully, will continue in the future years.

"Joining band has made me appreciate music a lot more and has helped me with my piano playing. Besides that, it's just overall exciting," commented senior band member, Cara Burk.

Band isn't all work with no play, as anyone who went to band camp will tell you. Traci Andersen, Brian Gavenda, Theresa Fabus and Chaunda Shaw enjoy a few minutes before rehearsal, with their rendition of "An Instrument Switcheroo." Spending that week together during the summer, forms a bond of friendship that remains throughout the entire school year. ♦

Mary Lou Kral, Karin Burlingame, Chris Shaw, Dianna Garcia, and Cheryl Howe get down to business when they're practicing for the upcoming district band festival. The band lives with the ethic that if they play together, they stay together. ♥



♦ Mr. Wager is always willing to lend a hand or an ear to a student having problems. He also knows how to appreciate a good joke and get a lot of laughs on his own. Here he shares a bit of time with Andy Denman and Kevin Palmatier during a percussion sectional at band camp. The students, besides having good relationships with each other, also get along great with Mr. Wager. There's a special friendship between the band director and students, and that makes them all the better in the long run.