

Saxophones, Trumpets, and Clarinets... Oh My!

By Brittani VanWinkle and Michaela Forkenbrock

September brings an exciting day for the band students at LHS. Most students enjoy missing school to march down the streets of Hutchinson, showing off their band uniforms, shiny instruments, and newly perfected songs at the Kansas State Fair. This year, Mr. Michael Kauffman took 36 students to the State Fair on Monday, September 12th, where their performance got them an I rating.

Mr. Kauffman believes that the band's body posture, horn angles, percussion, and overall sound was much more impressive than last year. During practice for the fair, Mr. Kauffman really had the band focus on articulation and dynamics, rather than playing as loud as possible for the entire song, which may have been an important factor in getting the band into the I category. "I could tell when we were practicing that we were going to do well, but I didn't know just how well until the judges ratings came out," stated Mr. Kauffman.

The band received all good comments from the judges about their performance. A solid performance, good step and alignment, good posture, carriage, tone and percussion, were included in the positive things the judges had to say. Mr. Kauffman was especially proud of the percussion section that the judges commented on. Those students worked hard on their part by coming in to class before school and during seminar to practice. Although the percussion was excelling this year, Mr. Kauffman believes that the I rating was completely a team effort, and required every section of the band to work hard.

Mr. Kauffman has been taking students to the state fair for many years. His favorite part about the trip to Hutchinson is watching the band march down Main Street with the school bus following close behind. "Something about that scene really gives me a feeling for the State Fair experience," Mr. Kauffman added. He also enjoys the fairground atmosphere with the butter

statue, fried food, pronto pups, and all the other exciting fair activities. With the State Fair experience comes State Fair memories. This year in particular, Mr. Kauffman's favorite memory is picking up the I rating ribbon for the band's performance. Another memorable moment he won't forget was Jaden Heilscher getting a seven patty burger at Mc. Donald's.

The band will be showing off their marching skills during the homecoming parade on Friday, September 23rd.