



ON THEIR HORNS Samantha Anderson (left) Matthew Wittman and Brent Juenemann practiced during class last Friday. The three students are part of



ON HER SAXOPHONE, Megan Huntley (above) played along with her classmates while Shay McChesney held his drum sticks steady, waiting to play.

Music makers practice daily

With their backs straight and feet planted firmly on the ground, the students got ready for their cue.

The horn sat upright on his knee until he saw Teacher Christie Morris's hands move meaning it was his turn. Friday morning, 17 sixth grade students played their horns, flutes, clarinets and the drum during their regular band class.

The students meet daily to practice their instruments and learn new songs and techniques from Mrs. Morris.

Recently the students started to work on their music for the spring

concert at the school on May 4.

Besides the sixth grade class in the morning, Mrs. Morris teaches 23 fifth grade students in the afternoon.

Some of the students are getting ready to play at 4-H days and others either took part in the recent flute workshop or will in the upcoming saxophone and trumpet workshops which will be held in the next few months.

Grade school band, said Mrs. Morris, is a time for the students to learn the foundation. It is important, she said. When the students get into junior high and high school they

don't have as much time to practice after school because as the students get older they are busier.

The students take part in awards each week. Awards, said Mrs. Morris, are given after students play individually for her. If they pass, they receive an award. Top award winners get a certificate and medal at the end of the year. There are many awards per level, she said. Most fifth graders are on level three and most of the sixth graders are on level four.

After students exceed 10 awards, their names go on the wall.

The highest the students can go is up to the top 70s, into the group, Sizzling Seventy. The name shows that the student has passed 70 awards in the fifth and sixth grade.

"Not very many students do this," she said.

The students carry the awards they have received from the fifth grade to the sixth grade rather than starting over each year.

Mrs. Morris said she has a wonderful bunch of kids.

"Their enthusiasm is like none other," she said.

