**Truly Powerful Beyond Measure**

By Nikki Avendano

The Morton High School Marching Band won either their class or Grand Champion at almost every competition they attended this season. They also won many caption awards, which are awards for individual parts of the band such as music, visuals, percussion, etc.

The band also achieved a great deal of success when they traveled down to the Bands of America Super Regional in St. Louis, and for the first time in history they won their class in a preliminary performance at a B.O.A. event. The Morton High School Band was truly Powerful Beyond Measure.

Powerful Beyond Measure was the theme this year for the band’s marching show. It was a show about how we are in fact more powerful than we think we are, and if we believe in ourselves we can achieve greatness.

The season was a great way for seniors to go out by doing and achieving things that they never accomplished before. It was also an amazing experience for the freshmen to come into and see what band is all about. Many of the seniors have been in band all four years of high school, and it has been a huge part in their lives.

Meanwhile, the freshmen have learned what marching band is and what they have to look forward to in the next few years. John Shoemaker who is a senior that plays tenors - and is also one of the section leaders for the drum line - thought this year was unlike any other.

Shoemaker has done marching band all four years of his high school career as a member on the drum line. He has many memories from the program but has an all time favorite.

“Making finals at the St. Louis Super Regional competition and beating out some of the really good bands,” said Shoemaker.

He says his favorite marching show was The Boy in the Stripped Pajamas from his sophomore year; however, this year’s music was his favorite to play. He doesn’t plan on playing his drum in college, but wishes to stay musically active.

This season was also a great way for freshmen to get used to what it is like being a Morton High School Marching Band member. Claire McCarthy, who was a freshman that played bells in pit, thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience this year. As she thought about it she figured out what her favorite part of the season was.

“My favorite part was meeting new people and getting new friends,” stated McCarthy.

She plans on sticking with band all four years of high school. She is really looking forward to playing a new instrument next year because in pit the members don’t always play the same instrument from year to year.

The time and dedication really paid off for the band members and staff this season winning their class eight years in a row at state. They had a great, successful season and accomplished things they never had before. The Morton High School Marching Band is hoping to continue achieving new goals with pride in their performance.