

Little did I know in the next years he would play a role shaping me as person and would be teaching me some of my greatest life lessons I have learned in high school.

### Senior Year

The first day of class my senior year Mr. Wick starts handing out music, some of the pieces seemed really fun, Christmas Jazz Suite, Christmas Festival, and Prelude and Fugue Joy to the World all became the songs we played in our final concert. Some parts of the music became the hardest stuff I have ever had to play . Surprisingly enough, I love playing all these pieces even though I'm not on the first part it is still so much fun. I'm learning a lot of new musical things, things that I have never had to do before; but i[m rising to the new expectation. Mr. Wick uses many analogies in order to make music more interesting and the class for example, when we play more jazz type rhythms he says "make people want to smoke to what your playing" meaning swing it harder than anything you have swung before. Or the most famous analogy from marching season we would have to be "make people want to strip to what we were playing." It was analogies like that, that just kept us playing our hearts out and doing band. If you know Wick, he is a big joker, and I didn't always get the jokes he told right away, I would usually get them about 15 minutes later. So Wick was talking about the Christmas tree orders and he said "you know what I love about the flyers they give you is that they're scratch and sniff" so he scratched and held it up to me to sniff and he the flicked the plastic top it was taped to and it hit me in the face. He just laughed and said " wow even three years later you still don't catch on like the rest of the class" it was hilarious he hasn't let me forget it. But it was moments like that, that just made me feel like I was at home even when I was sitting in a class room.

### 2008 State Marching Band Competition

We started rehearsal at 9 am it was freezing cold. Yet half the band still strips down to shorts and a t-shirt to do the final run through. When we get to the stadium all the senior traditions start happening, I'm finally a senior at state; I get to partake in all the senior traditions such as the seniors get a flower pinned to there uniform by Mr. Wick and we get to give him the only hug ever in our four years at Ponderosa. This is it! All I have worked for over 400 hours total of marching experience come down to this moment right here, an the outcome almost perfect at least the show I marched was perfect for what I have done this year. This was my last State performance ever and it was amazing even though we did not make finals. However the food that

we got that night was delicious and it made us feel like champions thanks to none other than, the infamous Mr. Santy, the best cook we could ever have for marching competitions had the best idea ever to do a Christmas in October for our state dinner this included a turkey dinner mash potato's, gravy, stuffing the whole shebang and surprisingly enough, a Christmas dinner made on a Coleman stove at DC stadium was really good and it was an amazing dinner. After we had already spent all day at DC stadium we had a foot ball game that night and it was fun. The football game that night was so much fun because there really wasn't any pressure on any of us to place or make this another performance in order to prepare for a competition it was just supposed to be fun. We got back to the school at 10:30 the night after one of the longest days of my life, to go into the band room and do Cotton eye Joe one last time with all the people I have grown to love in this family; it was the most fun I've had making a fool out of myself.

This one time at band camp!

The 2 months between band camp and state are always the hardest on everybody but my senior year they were especially hard because I started having anxiety attacks and didn't know what they were from, and I was so afraid it was from band that I had to take of a week and my biggest fear was that I wouldn't get to finish the season so I decided to test it and I went to a football game and performed and hoped that I wouldn't have an anxiety attack in the middle of our performance and I didn't. So the next day, I got to go to the Friendship Cup in Longmont and compete in our second competition of the year. We took 6<sup>th</sup> place which would have put us through to finals except finals got canceled because the temperature was sinking toward 20 degrees and they decided it would get too cold at night so we took 6<sup>th</sup>.

Right around now I am starting to realize that the freshman are really looking up to not only the seniors for direction but me too. And its weird considering it's only my second year marching and they look to me to see what foot to be on and other things like that, and it just a little scary to realize that I'm now the person that everyone is looking to for direction but at the same time it is a lot of fun. My senior year of band camp was a blast, but I also realized that all the seniors are gone and I'm the new top dog I think I'm going to like this. We started marching and I was like "oh no, last year I hated this" then we kept marching and it was easy and I was so much better at it and I loved it. Then I turned around and saw freshman looking to me to see what to do then I was like WOW I'm it, then I just put my all into it and marched the best I ever have.

## Junior Year

June between my junior and senior year we lost of a member of our band to cancer, but before she died we did something for her. The winter percussion put on a show right in her backyard. We got news channels to record it and she finally got her story out. The concert its self was breath taking. It made her feel like she was still part of us and that we never forgot about her, it was fun and it showed how much we really cared.

My last year playing at graduation made me start to realize that a lot of my friends are going to be graduating and this is the start of my last year in band and my last year of high school. I was scared, happy, and sad all at the same time. I don't want them to go, but their leaving me anyway.

The band banquet is what I have been waiting for since the end of the last marching season. Mainly because I tried out for section leader for flute. And the band banquet is where Wick tells the band who made section leaders and give awards so it was a very big night for me. Wick ended up doing three woodwind section leaders instead of a flute, clarinet, and saxophone section leader and Audrey got one of the section leaders. That made me mad because it's something I feel that I really worked for and then I didn't get, but I guess it all worked out in the end. Every year at the band banquet the seniors do senior most likely's and I love watching this because we get to see how close the seniors got over four years and I knew that it would be my turn next year. So in December of my junior year I tried out for wind ensemble for the sixth time and still didn't make it, I'm starting to think that practice charts do have a purpose in band. So there are a lot people in band and I'm really get to know a lot more of them a lot better and I'm really enjoying it. All my friendships with the current seniors are growing stronger and the friendships I left alone with the juniors are starting to grow into what I have with the seniors. I'm enjoying the time that I have left with my senior friends not thinking about them graduating.

The 2007 Colorado State Marching Competition was held at CSU stadium, the Stadium had such a routunda of sound, all the people and the echo of my instrument and the whole band was just the most overwhleming place I have ever had to play at. Even though this ended up being my last performance with Kristi and Jenny and it was so sad because I didn't know what I would do with out them next year. By far, state was my best performance of this season which is good because this is the performance that counts and an added plus was that I stayed on the right

foot the whole time which is an accomplishment for me right now. I was so sad that the season is over because it felt like it just flew by. Saturday practices this season were long and hard I cried at most of them because band is a very emotional rollercoaster, yes I'm quoting Wick, but it really is very emotional because I got so frustrated that I just wanted to do everything right but I just couldn't get it and you just want to cry most of the time. The performances that took place between band camp and State were fun and kind of scary all at the same time, but most of the time they were the most fun I ever had because people were there just to watch us and it's just thrilling.

My very first band camp was my first time marching ever, I was scared out of my mind about what it was going to be like, everyone was very encouraging which helped so much considering I am a junior marching for the first time ever. I hated show and tell, it was fun, but challenging and got really hard sometimes because I wanted so badly to be just as good as all the other juniors, but I just wasn't getting that good that fast. It did get a lot easier towards the end of the season because everyone helped me out. I made a lot more friends and got stronger friendships as the week went on.

#### Sophomore Year

The band aspect of my senior year felt like it just flew by so fast I couldn't even believe it was over. I guess me not marching played a pretty big role in my year flying by. I decided to not march this year even though I really wanted to I let someone else march as section leader instead. It was really hard not marching this year because all my friends were marching and I felt so left out in band class because I didn't feel like I was really apart of the band because I wasn't on the field with everyone else.

#### Freshman Year

I got to play in front of a lot of people for the first at graduation and it was a lot of fun mainly because we sounded really good. At graduation I realized that Renee, my best friend in band and everywhere else was going to be moving away, and then who would I have next year? I cried because she was leaving; It was really hard to watch her move away. After she left it felt empty in band without her.

First day of school my freshman year I walked into the band and saw this tall skinny guy with gray hair and all I could think was this is going to be interesting. Then he started going over all the policies and what was expected and the one thing I remember him say is don't annoy me, and

that was his thing that he told us all year, I didn't know it at the time but he would become my favorite Teacher and my favorite Class. He made high school a completely different experience for me, and that's why I guess we would all eventually grow so close to Wick. In the first week of school I made all the friends that would later leave me with everything they had to offer me in band and taught me how to be just as much of a senior as they were going to be. I didn't think about it at the time but in three years they would leave me as the senior and in charge.

### 8th Grade

My first winter concert in Colorado this is where I realized that I must really love band. My Christmas concert at Sagewood, our first piece started out with an eight bar flute trill high b flat and 4 bars into the trill I ran from my first chair seat to the bathroom throwing up along the way and the only thing I could think about was I have a solo, oh no I need to go play. I was Mortified that I didn't get to finish the concert but since then I have never gotten sick at a concert. Band gave me such an opportunity to make friends especially because I was new this year at Sagewood and band was really the only thing I was really good at so I knew that it would make me friends and well it did that. This year is the year I made all the friends that would be graduating and marching beside me in our senior year. I didn't know this then but I was about to make friendships that would last through out high school.

### Senior Year Reprise

My senior winter band concert would be the last concert I would ever perform and it went really well. The band played the best we'd ever played some parts in the pieces and it was so much fun to be up on stage with the wind ensemble finally. It was the most relaxed I have ever been on stage while playing, it was definitely an experience I will never forget. Mr. Wick didn't just teach me about music, he also taught me life lessons that would have taken years to learn on my own. He would say little things to us like "nobody cares" meaning that you have to do things for yourself. Unless your working because you love it or you play for you then it doesn't matter because you have to do things because you want to do it. My other favorite one was "responsibility is a wonderful thing" he would always say that when someone forgot there instrument or anything for that matter. It was stuff like that, that I think as much as people laughed it off, it really subconsciencely changed us, and band did make me more responsible and made me work for what I wanted. And if you want to get something or do something you have to go for and don't hold anything back and wick taught me that.

## Finale

Little did i know 4 years ago all that Mr. David Wick and my Band family would teachme, would play a major role in the person I became when I graduated. Band is taking me so many places maybe not musically, but through what I learned. Band has turned me into a harder worker and made me more responsible and in a way it has really prepared me for the real world by teaching me all this. I'm not afraid to go to college anymore I know I will be able to handle it because I handled a junior schedule and a packed senior schedule and 200+ hours of band in 3 months so I'm confident band has prepared for the real world.