

Band Scholarship Essay

*"The talking, the laughing, the marching, the fun
The time and practices all out in the sun
I kid you not; we tried to work so hard,
But some days we just didn't get far
Those practices were rough and they were a mess,
But in the end it straightened us out for our very best
We performed, we played, we marched our show
Under the gleaming lights, the sun or snow
We marched off the field with smiling faces
Stepping aside waiting for our places
We sat waiting and waiting and waiting...
On those hard bleachers our minds' were fading
Finally we hear it's time for Retreat
We wonder if we have been beat
We listen intently as they read the scores
Seeing who fails and who soars
Some days we gleamed and beamed with gladness
Other days we sat in sadness
No matter the outcome, it was all worth it
We tried our hardest and didn't quit*

We had fun in the sun and our friendships strived

But most of all, band was life”

I wrote this poem to symbolize what band meant to me. This poem imitated what happened in band in a full marching season. From band camp in August through the snowy state competitions in early November, band was time-consuming, but it was all worth it in the end.

For me, band was life. Band was my way of getting through high school and making friends. I never knew that playing my horn while walking around aimlessly on a football field would grant me so many friends, opportunities and entertainment.

Friends are solely what high school is about. I would never have made it through high school without the support of my friends through band. Band is my second family and I know I can always rely on anyone in band. The band members are with you through the good and bad and they walk by your side for every moment. My best friends were there for me when I needed something as simple as a question on homework. They were there to get coffee with me if I just needed to talk. But most of all, they walked by my side and carried me when I needed someone’s shoulder to cry on. During my time in high school band, we lost part of our band family to cancer. In that moment of grief, our band grew so much closer together and our friendship bonds couldn’t have been tighter. Everyone was there for each other and you could always talk to anyone. Jenna was an inspiration to our band and losing a part of my second family is a feeling I will never forget. I lost a sister that day and from that moment I realized there is nothing greater in life than having a core group of friends to be there to support each

other in a time of grief. That bond strength was greater than any chemical bond ever created or that will ever be created. This family of mine will be here eternally in my heart.

Band also created many opportunities for me musically. Leaving middle school I didn't know if I wanted to continue on in band or not. Talking to one of my best friends in middle school one day, she asked if I was going to march in marching band next year. I told her I didn't know and she told me I should because she was. That day I made the decision to go with her and be a part of marching band. Little did I know that she would be my motivation and influence in the musical aspect of band for the rest of high school. Katie is a friend of mine that always strives for the top when playing her instrument. Because of that, she influenced me to become a better musician myself and to work hard at it. She is the one that convinced me to practice more and to soar higher. I tried out for multiple honor bands because of her and many honors and recognitions came my way that I never knew would. Participating three years in a row at Continental League Honor Band, and one year at Allstate Honor Band as first chair bass clarinet are once in a lifetime occurrences. These opportunities are things that I never expected to happen and they were well worth it. These honor bands are what inspired me to continue on next year and play for my college's wind ensemble. These opportunities touched me deeply and I will always be grateful to have achieved these honors.

Not only was band for the friendships and for the musical aspects, but it was for fun. Band was my entertainment and I enjoyed being a part of the performance. I had so much fun from playing my horn for people and creating music. I will never forget playing "Thy Word" in the marching show my junior year and seeing all the band members playing their hearts out and the audience standing in awe. "Thy Word" was a beautiful song and Mr. Wick always said

“We haven’t done our job if the audience isn’t crying when we’re done with it.” One performance I distinctly remember looking at the audience and a mother picking her son up and hugging him as she teared up. I knew at that moment our job had been accomplished. That was the most fun for me. Being able to see the audience reflect on our performance and being able to see them having fun watching us is what made band so entertaining.

That is band. A family. A bond. An opener of opportunities. And a way to have fun. Band was how I made it through high school and it was how my teenage years took off. Band was my life.