

Band

While people may love and appreciate the band, few really understand the complex nature of the band. Most people don't realize how interesting band truly is, and they cannot understand this unless they were to be proper bandies. Then it is quite easy to explain why trumpets are obnoxious, the percussion annoying (mostly referred to as the 'concussion'), or why Mr. Harper no longer has a beard. Many words are not in a band geek's vocabulary such as a life, free time, or individuality. Conversely, band geeks are very familiar with the terms horn flash, cadence, and they know that when Mr. Lawson says "one more time" it actually means three or four more times. Band is something that touches the soul and occupies all of one's time. We allow ourselves to be so consumed because of the memories, for the companionship, and in the back of our minds no matter how hard we try to ignore it, we know that band is helping us plan our futures.

Memory Lane is much too familiar to us band geeks; we like to sit back and remember the fun times from past shows, bus trips, and contests. We get all excited talking about great pranks that the percussion pulled, or referencing back to Mr. Harper's 50th Birthday Surprise. Bus trips are the best times for us bandies, all huddled together, arguing and reminiscing. I mean, what's better than sitting by your best friend and debating the fine points of reed making for two hours? I can recall trips where someone started singing the opener and everyone else started coming in with their respective parts. Then we'd all start talking about our shows and how great it is to play that last note of the *furioso* and have the audience applaud for all of that blood, sweat, and tears. We just enjoy bringing up the past...together.

Whilst 'together' may, at times, be forced, for the most part, we band geeks, love each other to death. All of my closest friends are in band, and most of them I met through the band. Without band, I wouldn't know all the wonderful people that I do, especially the juniors and seniors. I can tell, no matter how hard I try, I'm never going to get these people of my life. ☺ We are just like a team; we are as organized (or disorganized for that matter) as any sport. Band has brought about a tenth of the school together and has taught us good values such as teamwork, compromise, and adaptation. It has helped pave a road to our future.

We may not like it, but we're all growing up, all we have to think about is what lies ahead. Band can help many of us get scholarships into college or other financial aid. Unlike other activities (like most sports), band is something that one can do almost for life. As crazy as our directors may be, they still influence us immensely. We may decided that we would like to follow in their footsteps and become directors ourselves, or composers, or professional musicians. Without band, would we have been open to that possibility? Needless to say, band is very important to me, and about 180 other people.

We all love band and think that it's amazing; we have great times, great friends, and great opportunities. Without band what would we have done on Friday nights? Where would we have gone on Saturday mornings? What friends would we have? Where would the road of life have taken us? So, to band, I say, plumes off to you!