

When I was reaching the end of my 9th grade year, I was getting very anxious to go to high school. I had done my time in junior high and was ready to go to the next step. Of all the things that I was looking forward to in high school, being in the high school band was number one.

I knew from my older brother and sister that it was going to be a great experience. Both of them were in band all through high school and as they were in it, I got to go and see all of the marching shows and concerts they performed. Going to these made me want to get there more and more. Being in the high school band has definitely lived up to the expectations.

As a sophomore, I was privileged to be in the band when we went to the Rose Parade. It was one of the greatest experiences in my life but it didn't come easy. Marching Band is very tough and requires a lot of focus, endurance, and will. It requires a lot of practice, even at times when you feel you could be doing something else. It gets very tiring but the end result is what you are doing it for. After all of the practice and hard work, there is no greater feeling than marching off the field at contest or in a half time show after doing a great run of the show everyone has worked so hard on. It takes a tough mentality, but it's definitely worth it in the end. The best experience I have from this is when we marched off the field at the Owasso Marching Band competition after having one of our greatest runs ever and competing with some of the best bands in this part of the country.

Another great part of band is all of the people you meet. Some of my closest friends have come from being in band together. Because of the amount of time everyone spends together in band, you quickly get to know everyone first in your section, and then in others. Now, two years later I have some of the greatest friends I could ask for. We all help and want each other to improve and support each other in every way we can. I know I get a lot of help in my regular school classes from many members in the band and they've helped me keep my grades where I want them. Being in band is truly like having a family away from home.

For me personally, the biggest thing I've got out of band is my improvement as a musician. I play the trumpet and just after my first few months I improved drastically. It's also given me more want to improve. When being in a large band like Fayetteville, there is a lot of competition. This allows all who want to improve, to be able to. For the other players like me who are constantly striving to do better and become a better musician, being in the Fayetteville High School Band will definitely get you where you want to be.

Now, as I enter my senior year, I realize how much fun and how many great experiences I've had while being in band. These experiences happen to everyone and I hope that this next year will be great for all of the new members.

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Trumpet Player