

June 2013

For eighth graders and their parents:

Each day consists of only twenty-four hours, eight of which should apparently be spent sleeping. At least, that's what the counselors will tell you. The amount of work to be completed only increases over the years despite this time limit. As such, time management is extremely important. You have already heard all of the pluses for and against participating in marching band by now. The point of this letter, then, is to give you some tips to help you better manage your time.

Perhaps the most helpful piece of advice I can give you is to organize yourself. No, I don't mean keep your room clean – I got through high school in one piece and my room definitely wins the title of "World's Messiest Room." What I found helpful was to create a calendar and write down every single event, big or small. This included homework due dates, region band auditions, homecoming, and more. Being the control freak I am, I even color coded my calendar. English assignments were blue, pre-cal assignments were green, and band events were purple. Laying out the contents of my life for the weeks to come helped me to gain a better understanding of how much time I had. This in turn helped me to plan out my time.

Constantly updating my calendar was tedious at first, but once I became busier, updating my calendar became a relaxing activity. I realized after updating my calendar that I often had more time than I realized to complete assignments or prepare for an upcoming audition. This helped me remain relatively calm even when I struggled to juggle the numerous commitments I had signed myself up for, from playing in the pit orchestra at school to preparing for Solo and Ensemble, All-State auditions, and still getting some study time in.

Something else that helped me manage my time was removing all distractions while completing homework assignments. This included deleting trashy, addictive young adult novels from my reading repertoire and closing the Youtube tab I often had open on my computer. Doing so allowed me to completely focus on my homework. I also either listened to classical music or refrained from streaming music in the first place. While listening to my favorite music made homework seem less tedious, I often found myself placing more attention on the music than my homework and, as such, taking inexplicably large amounts of time to complete simple assignments.

In the end, though, there is no specific way of managing your time. Everyone has their own idiosyncrasies and what works for me might not work for you. It will take some experimentation, but you will eventually figure out how to manage your time. Good luck and have fun!

Sincerely,



Lorna Min

