

June 2013

Incoming freshmen and their parents,

Time management is one of the most important skills that one can learn in life. As your schedules become busier, learning how to organize things in a way to limit the amount of wasted time is crucial. Immersion is a highly effective way to learn new skills and with the marching band I have learned so much about time management. Throughout all of middle school I never had a reason to manage my time. I would get home, relax a little, and start my homework later. Marching band gave me a reason, and I'm glad it did. As I have taken up more activities like Ultimate Frisbee and bowling, I have been able to adjust accordingly.

For those thinking that you care about your grades more than I do – I know I would if I were in your position –, let me introduce this. I wrote a program to check my grades for me because I do it so often. So yes, grades matter to me. I can say that I have not seen any impact on my schoolwork as a result of the time that marching band takes. I also have plenty of time to socialize with my friends outside of school.

The best way to organize my schedule, I have learned, is to write it down either in my agenda or on sticky notes. There have been numerous times where I have felt overwhelmed with things to do, but once I wrote everything down I noticed that I actually had more time than I thought. This also reduces stress on your mind, as you don't have to juggle all your assignments and hope that you don't forget one. Plus, as nerdy as it sounds, I actually get joy from being able to cross something off my list after I've finished it.

I have gained so much from this organization in addition to musicianship and time management skills. The culture that I am a part of is the best that I have ever experienced. Band really is a big family. Throughout the summer, the after school rehearsals, football games, and competitions, I have become so close to my friends. My band friends are the best friends that I have ever had and I would not give them up for anything.

I highly recommend joining the marching band. Not only have I learned and gained from being a part of the group, but it is also so much fun. Though you might not like the idea of giving up a month of your summer, I actually enjoy it. From Band Olympics and section lunches to just seeing your friends every day, the summer rehearsals are a highlight of my usually dull summers. Joining the marching band was one of the best decisions I have ever made.

Sincerely,  
Keivaun Waugh