

## The Student

My name is Alexander Ramirez and I am in 10th grade. I play the euphonium, trombone, baritone, and percussion in Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, and Marching Band at Firebaugh High School. I go to school 5 days a week and everyday I get to play in the school band. I love being involved in performing arts and I also enjoy drawing.

My first year in band was in 7th grade when the district decided to bring back the music program. We couldn't do much when we first started because we didn't have any instruments yet. We used all the time in our period to learn about reading music and the values of note and basics. Before music came back, I didn't really feel that my experience in school was all that it could be; it felt monotonous. My best subject at the time was science, but even then that class was starting to get boring. I only had a few friends and I didn't really have a group in school.

I remember how happy we were when we finally got our instruments. It took us a while to remember what each note meant and how the piece was going to sound. The piece I remember the most was one of our first pieces that we played out of the method book called "Jolly Ole Saint Nick". I was incredibly happy when we played this song and we were just glad that we got through the performance without too many mistakes.

I would probably have to say that the hardest part of playing an instrument is having to read rhythms and giving your sound a good direction. The best part of getting to play an instrument is that you can see your hard work turn into something amazing and knowing that what you are doing isn't something that people can pick up in a week or even a month. Seeing years of hard work going into something beautiful is the best part about playing an instrument.

I also have to give credit where credit is due and no one deserves more credit than my music teacher Mr. Dirlam. Apart from being a great teacher he's also a great friend. He takes his relationship with his students very seriously and spends time getting to know us in order to understand our lives better. He helps bring this whole band together.

Most of my friends are in band and I think that it's band that made us friends. Band is something that we all have in common and it's awesome to be able to refer to the band as our band family.