

## A Look Inside The Band

By: Katelyn Rieder

The Oak Hills' Marching Band is one of our many admired departments. In order to learn more about this gruelling sport--yes, you read that right-- I interviewed Junior Jaden Thompson. Thompson is a dedicated member of our band, who takes immense pride in the work that she and her peers put in daily.

### **Q: What is your role in marching band?**

A: My role in the marching band, besides being a piccolo player, is that I am the flute/piccolo section leader. With a band of 100+ people, it can be very hard for one person to be in charge. Me being a section leader, I am there to help my baby flutes both musically and marching.

### **Q: On average, how many hours a week do you dedicate to marching band?**

A: My schedule depends on the week, but regardless of the weeks, marching band is a major time commitment. The marching band only performs home games now due to the rigorous competition season. Overall, I dedicate an average of about 15 hours a week to band, and that's not even including class.

### **Q: What music classes do you take?**

A: I am in Wind Ensemble and Jazz Lab this year.

### **Q: Could you explain those?**

A: Wind is a more select group of musicians and anyone can take jazz lab whether you play a traditional jazz instrument or not, which I think is really cool.

### **Q: What instrument do you play?**

A: I have been playing the flute since sixth grade. My friends and I all agreed to join the band and play the flute, and I ended up falling in love with it. I just started playing piccolo (a smaller, more high pitched flute basically) in my freshman year. This is my second year marching piccolo.

### **Q: How do you balance school, band, and your social life?**

A: Again, marching band is super time committing so I don't have much time for anything but band in school. Probably one of the most popular sayings among band kids is "what's free time?" It can be really hard to balance band with two AP and three honors classes, especially as a hardcore procrastinator, but you just have to learn to set priorities and such. I like to set little



goals each day that aren't too overbearing but enough to push me to be the best student and musician I can be.

**Q: What's your favorite part about band?**

A: I have such a huge passion for music. learning new scales and chords and harmonies and melodies, I could go on for days. For me, music is an escape. I have never played my flute and been sad which is probably my favorite part about band: I get to do the thing I love most and that's to make music.

**Q: What's your least favorite part about band?**

A: Sometimes band can be a bit overbearing, I must admit. My entire life revolves around band, which isn't a bad thing, but it can be draining on those practices that never seem to end.

**Q: What's the average day in band class look like?**

A: If I could describe band in one word it would be "chaos." Each day is like a new adventure with inside jokes being created daily it seems. Not only that, but some of these pieces are chaotic, like running 16th notes at 154 bpm (aka too fast) chaotic! But it's a grand time.

**Q: Is there anything you would say to someone interested in joining band?**

A: To be able to make music is such an amazing opportunity. I wouldn't be the person I am today without it. I have grown so much as a musician and have met so many amazing people along the way who I love and am happy to call family. 10/10 recommend band.

From football games to marching around the halls Friday mornings, the band is always there giving it their all. The amount of work that these students put in is so incredibly admirable, they deserve your respect more than anything.

If you wish to support the band during their competition season, check out the schedule [here](#).

