



D-200 Musicians of the Month



Hailey Virella

Creekside Middle School

What music activities are you involved in at school?

I'm in choir, Women's Choir, and I'm one of the vocalists in Jazz Band.

What got you interested in music?

My dad has always played a lot of music around me when I was growing up, so I've always had the exposure to it and it interested me. I sang in front of my church when I was about 8 and wanted to continue singing.

What is your favorite part of participating in music?

I like that I get guidance in singing and have the opportunity to grow with my voice and skills. Singing is the what I'm passionate about, so being able to sing every day is really fun and important to me.

What do you plan to do with your musical talents in the future?

I definitely want to continue choir in high school and join as many activities as I can. I don't know where my passion for music will take me, or what role it'll play in my life, but I hope the answer to that unfolds as I keep singing throughout 8th grade and high school.



Molly Anderson

Northwood Middle School

What music activities are you involved in at school?

I'm in choir, Warhawk Choir (Acapella Group), Women's Choir, and I play ukulele out of school.

What got you interested in music?

When I was two years old, I would watch The Little Mermaid constantly because it was my favorite movie and still is. I loved singing along to all the songs.

What is your favorite part of participating in choir?

The choir feels like a family and I love singing with others.

What do you plan to do with your musical talents in the future?

I hope to join the Madrigals in High School.



Ashlynn Drach

Woodstock High School

What music activities are you involved in at school?

I am in varsity choir, Jazz Choir, and Madrigals. I also sing the national anthem at my home volleyball games at WHS, and I participate in the High School Spring musical each spring.

What is your favorite music to play?

I joined a youth chorale in the 3rd grade at Dean street elementary as a trial run and we sang "Viva La Vida" by Coldplay. It sparked a light in me that this is what I want to do.

What is your favorite part of participating in choir?

My favorite part about being in singing is that I'm in multiple choirs, so I talk about music all the time. I often get called a choir nerd, which I honestly I love. I know a lot about music and I'm not ashamed to talk about it or be proud of what I do. My fellow choir members also make it a pretty, amazing experience.

What do you plan to do with your musical talents in the future?

I plan to use my musical talents while living my dream of performing on Broadway in a hit musical. My other plan is to become a musical therapist so that I can help people while doing what I love most.



Amanda Valdes-Garcia

Woodstock North High School

What music activities are you involved in at school?

I am involved in varsity choir, band, and Jazz Choir. I play the piano, guitar, and am in percussion ensemble. This Fall season I am the Drum Major for band.

What got you interested in music?

Music has always been a stress relief for me. When going through rough times, I am able to sit down and express my feelings out in a healthy manner. My family has always been very supportive of me, and since I was young I have been surrounded by the arts. This helped me become more connected with my family and myself.

What is your favorite part of participating in band/orchestra/chorus?

During Band and Choir, my teachers push me more than just mentally. They help me think about pieces of music in more ways than just notes. The environment is very positive, and I am able to become more knowledgeable about music of the past.

What do you plan to do with your musical talents in the future?

I plan to keep music in my life by joining a choir ensemble in college, or find people who also play instruments and meet with them to keep up with the instrumental part of life. After College, I plan to continue singing and playing instruments and possibly use these talents to help others.

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