

Dayton Oaks Elementary School Band Testimonials

Below are just a few testimonials from former members and parents of the DOES Band program so you can have more insight into what your child will experience as a member of the DOES Band.

"My son, David, started band as a 5th grade beginner. He had struggled academically all through school and we had no expectation at all that music was even really a possibility for him but agreed to let him try it. David loved band and quickly became proficient with the trombone. His success with music caused us to revisit his reading difficulties. Through testing, we learned he was dyslexic and we got on a path to address that as well. While academics can still be a struggle, he has come a long way both as a musician and a student. The discipline, focus and organizational skills he has learned as a musician have been critical in helping him face his academic challenges! Band, chorus and orchestra are huge at the middle school level. The kids get an hour of music a day. They do trips and concerts. It is an integral part of middle school life and the kids who are not involved in some way in music miss out on many exciting opportunities! Our daughter, Grace, has followed in her brother's footsteps and is a 4th grader this year playing saxophone. While she's not always certain of her commitment to the saxophone, she is absolutely certain she wants to stick with band into middle school because she sees the things her brother gets to do and looks forward to having the same opportunities herself." -Barb Ridenour (David and Grace Ridenour's Mom)

"My son Daniel started playing tuba before his 4th grade year and is still playing in middle school. He enjoys it tremendously and loves the big sounds he can make. Playing the tuba has also helped his piano playing. My daughter Kathleen is in 5th grade and also plays tuba. She was in GT band for 2 years. She also loves the big sounds she makes, and likes when people say "wow a girl tuba player, that is really cool!" She will continue to play in middle school. Mrs. Syversen's passion for her students motivated my children to do well, and they are proud of their abilities." -Ann Maiorana (Daniel and Kathleen Maiorana's Mom)

"I started band in elementary school after contemplating between playing the cello or the saxophone. Band with Mrs. Syversen was not only a fun, and educational experience, but it was inspiring. I found passion while participating in the Jazz band especially, and was set up for continuing music through middle, and high school. Although I had to leave the band program my sophomore year in high school, I cannot express how much education comes from participating in the music programs of Howard County. I currently work as a mechanical/optomechanical design engineer at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab, and will be studying engineering at Purdue University next year. I contribute the creativity which drives my engineering abilities, to the music programs which inspired me to practice creativity within the arts. Being well rounded is VERY important, and not just for applications, my experience in music gave me the skills which harmonize with my love of engineering and allow me to succeed." -Connor Tinker 2016 (former DOES student)

"The DOES band program, under the direction of Amy Syversen, has been a valuable factor in my son's education. As an academically challenged student, my son has gained confidence and an increasing self-worth because he is able to excel with music. He has learned skills and discipline that have transferred to his academic studies and made him a better learner. Band is such a fun break in his academic week that he doesn't mind missing recess for it!" -Parent of a 2nd year band student

"I can't say enough of what musical enrichment has done for Mitchell over the years. Starting in 4th grade with the encouragement of Mrs. Syversen, he began learning to play tuba. We always felt each student in class was made to feel special and received the praise he/she deserved. In addition to helping with his self-esteem, this gave him a nice group of friends to work, grow and perform with. He continued his musical education and always felt that music helped not only with his math skills, it also helped to keep him organized. Between homework, extra-curriculars, private lessons and practicing, he had to learn how to prioritize to get everything done. As a parent, I can also say that there are no smarter kids and no better friends than the ones he has made during his band career. They have been a motivating and positive influence to him and I am ecstatic that he had such a wonderful group of peers. As he moved on through middle and high school, he went on to participate in bands on the county, state and national levels and will be attending college in the fall to study Music Education. He credits the music programs he has participated in as the best experiences of his life so far and hopes to become a music teacher so he can create a great program and pay it forward!" –Esther Evans (Mitchell Evan's Mom)

"Alexander Cui joined the band when he started 4th grade, and he enjoys playing trumpet very much since then. Mrs. Syversen's commitment and dedication for the band are remarkable and inspirational. Alex took private piano lessons at age of 5.5 years for more than 3 years, but true passion toward music comes to him after he starts playing trumpet with the band. We are very proud of his achievement in the band, but particularly of his continuous improvement and willingness of learning and practicing. We are more and more confident that he might play trumpet as a life-long hobby." -Hailing (Alex Cui's Mom)

"Love of music, motivation, hard work", these are the things that Robert Guan gained through band experience". –Yazhou (Robert Guan's Mom)

"We've seen how participating in band has helped grow our son's self-confidence, concentration, and time management. The payoff comes when he gets the thrill from a concert performance." –Tom Young (Brady Young's Dad)

"We moved to Dayton Oaks in 4th grade so I was delighted when Mrs. Syversen inspired our son to take up trombone. He can be quiet and does not like the limelight but Band got him up on stage performing confidently in front of people. It also made a child that struggles to focus develop that slip. We like that he belongs to a group as he goes through middle and high school. He has friends across the grades because they play together so transition to high school should be smooth. Our son is not into team sports so being in Band has given him the opportunity to work with others to create that special sound. The HCPSS Music Department is one of the very best things about our schools here and this shows very clearly in Mrs. Syversen's teaching. She is the kind of teacher you dream of. Moving on to middle school we have found this again in Mr. Jackowski at Lime Kiln; he is also one if the best. Our son's favourite lesson is always Band." –Sally Jones (David Jones's Mom)

"The Dayton Oaks band has been amazing. My son started trumpet in 4th grade with no experience at all. Mrs. Syversen does an amazing job teaching as well as encouraging the students as they progress throughout the year. I would highly recommend the band program to anyone who may be interested in learning to play an instrument! The progress that they make in just a few months is incredible." –Dana Denault (Landon Denault's Mom)

"Brad and Craig say that they love band because they can do special things like perform the Star Spangled Banner at an Orioles game and they can do things that aren't quite as special, but still great to know, like being able to read music. Plus, band kids make awesome friends. They both LOVE band." –Tracey Hoffman (Brad and Craig Hoffman's Mom)

"Thank you for bringing music to Eric's life. He now listens to a classical station to fall asleep to at night, prior to taking band that would have never happened. He has a better appreciation for all genres of music and that is due to you and to being in the band."

-Pam Roth (Eric Roth's Mom)

"Russell grew tremendously by participating in band. It was a wonderful experience, and we would encourage all kids to consider joining! Not only did it expose him to other types of music, but he learned to *read* music, a whole new language, that he began to follow when in church. He learned the value of teamwork, with every instrument contributing to a successful performance. He gained more confidence being part of a group playing in front of classmates, staff, and family. And, finally, we noticed he actually became more disciplined and better organized as he sought to improve his trumpet playing. Band has been a fantastic part of Russell's years at DOES!" -Diane Minni (Russell Minni's Mom)