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Mr. Johnston

Senior Project

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The Importance of Music

Music has been used throughout time and is used for almost anything. Music can be used to represent feelings, dance to, focus on, or even learn about. It enhances teamwork, communication skills, students can do better on the SAT, and helps with learning different languages and thinking. For my senior project, I chose to organize the marching band library, to do that I had to go through many different steps including, decision making, dedicating myself entirely to the project, time management, teamwork, and organization.

First, I had to go through many of my senior project ideas over and over again, until I came to a happy decision. Instead of picking a project I felt would be the best, I wanted to talk to different people about the project, my mom was a very big influence when it came to deciding on a project, she did research on different topics and gave me a reason or explanation why I should do the project, or what the benefits would be. When I spoke with my band director, Mrs. Amy Johnston, it was at that very moment when I realized that I should be doing a project as local as my school. Mrs. Johnston has been my band teacher for 7 years, and I have watched her grow and teach me new things. I have even had a chance to know her on a very personal level and I traveled with her on the way to numerous festivals, where I furthered my musical knowledge.

Among the many festivals, I have learned many new things, met new friends and make myself very comfortable with having music help shape the person who I am today.

Then, as the senior project proposal was getting closer to the deadline to be turned in, Mrs. Johnston said "If anyone needs a senior project idea, I have quite a few different ideas that could pass as a project and I would be very thankful if I had some help." After class that day, I went up to her and asked what idea she had for me, so she described to be different tasks that had to be completed, but the one that interested me the most was organizing the marching band library. I am a very active member of the marching band, and I know how hard and time-consuming it can be to find a piece of music, especially when it's not in any specific order. So I decided on helping Mrs. Johnston, by organizing the marching band library.

Second, I didn't know what I was getting myself into until the first day I started my project. The day I started, I realized that I really had to dedicate myself to my project and really focus on what I was doing. At times, I found a piece of music that I remember performing, so I would start to sing along to it, and then I remembered that I was there for a reason and I really needed to get it done. The location of my project was in the basement of my high school, and it a room that sort of looked like a dungeon, so at times it was quite scary to be down there to focus on organizing music. As I started nearing the deadline of my project, I had to entirely put my focus on entering the music into a database and making sure every piece of music matched the number that I assigned it to.


Third, time management is essential, especially if you have a deadline, such as a senior project. My senior year was very packed with different projects, assignments, and tests, so I wasn't very interested in getting my project done right away. It wasn't until a few weeks before

my deadline that I started to get completely serious with my project. I ended up making myself a schedule of each day that I would plan to work on the senior project and for how long.

Thankfully, the schedule got me back on task so I was able to finish my senior project without having the stress of waiting for the last minute.

Fourth, once one graduates high school to pursue a job or anything of their interest, usually teamwork is involved. After talking with my mom in great detail about my project, she explained to me the importance of teamwork and she let me know that if I needed help with my project that she would help me to the best of her ability. It turned out that teamwork was one of the best things I got out of my project, I learned so much from it! I was able to write the name of the song and the composer on paper, and if I didn't have time, my mom had some free time to type it into a spreadsheet. It saved me much time and stress to have her help me with it and since typing is a very easy task to do, I didn't feel bad to have someone help me.

Fifth, I have organized most everything in my life, and that's why this project was almost a piece of cake for me. Much organization had to take place during the completion of the project. I had to organize different numbers to match the piece it was given to, and I had to organize my time and my extra-curricular activities around my project. It may sound easy to organize a bunch of music but a different kind of organization had to go on here, especially organization of the mind, if I went over the same drawer twice, sometimes I wouldn't even think of it, so as an organization technique, I would take a piece of tape and write "done" on the paper and tape it on the drawer to remind myself not to open that drawer again. When I was completely done with my project, I went to my local Technology Office in my high school to borrow a labeler. All I had to do was type the numbers, from the drawers, and then print off a little piece of paper, from to labeler, to stick onto each individual filing cabinet drawer. In the future, if anyone were to look



for a piece of music, they would just simply have to go to the number of the music and find it on one of the labels, or between the numbers that each label had.

Throughout this project, I learned many essentials, things that couldn't be learned from a teacher, but on my own through my project. A quote that I found very important to me was, "What works in an organization in reaching its goals is not an individual, but properly integrated teamwork" ("The Importance" 1), thanks to my mom I learned that much of the working world today relies on teamwork and communication. I also found that "communication is easily overlooked, but the ability to communicate effectively is necessary to carry out the thoughts and visions of an organization to the people" ("The Importance of Communication" 1), with that being said, communication is a big factor and it just helps in the organization process. For example, if I did not communicate with Mrs. Johnston, I would have never completed even the littlest tasks, if we didn't speak with each other about it first. I also believe that over-communication is not a problem, there have been a couple times where I have had Mrs. Johnston explain to me what I needed to do, I would write it down, and verbally repeat the things, she wanted me to do, back to her, this was very effective and it helped make both our jobs easier.

The skills and concepts that I learned through this specific senior project that I chose, was that organization would probably be in my best interest for the rest of my life. Also I learned to appreciate history, because some of the pieces that I found used to be 40 cents for a whole score, or a copy of each instruments' part, but now prices range depending on how popular a song is, sometimes prices are around thirty dollars, and more! So when I realized that I had found, basically a jackpot, of 40 cent scores, I thought it was so cool that I was holding a piece of history, and it really meant a lot to me.

One of the things that did not go as planned was my time management. I was getting close to the deadline, with a few weeks left, and I still had a big job to finish, so I gave myself one week to do the rest of what I had to finish. It turned out that it helped me out in the long run, due to goal setting. I gave myself a goal to finish the project in a specific time period and I was actually able to finish the majority of it, even though I still had some left to do, I had a firm grip that I was going to finish my project with pride and gratitude!

In conclusion, organizing a marching band library is a very difficult and strenuous task, but I would encourage all students to get involved in such a task. The arts are losing a firm grip in the society and I believe that it is right for every student, involved in music, should give back in such a way that I did, maybe not as much, but they could come up with different ideas. Lastly, I am very thankful for the senior project that I have completed, I will value all of the lessons that it has taught me, and I truly believe that it has made me a better, different person.

Works Cited

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