



FEATURES

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Who are we?



Who are we? We are

***Musicians** - music comes first. Students are trained in the fundamentals of music reading, performance, and critique.*

***Diverse** - students come to us from all over Fulton County from a variety of socio-economic backgrounds.*

***Inclusive** - the band program at North Springs is like a family. Our students do an awesome job of accepting their peers and working together in harmony. Our students report feeling "at home" and supported in the band.*

***Leaders** - our band students learn to become leaders. Students run the show as much as possible. I have stacks of testimonies from students who came to the program as shy, quiet, followers and transformed into leaders, teachers, and performers.*

What we do



We offer a variety of music classes and extracurricular ensembles at North Springs. Our goal is train students to be lifelong performers and consumers of music. Students at North Springs have the opportunity to earn 32 credit hours by graduation. This exceeds the state graduation requirement, so students can take multiple classes in the arts. Following are some of the classes and extracurricular ensembles offered by the music department:

- **Beginning Band** is for students
 - who are learning an instrument for the first time
 - who are switching instruments
 - who feel they missed out on some fundamental training and need a bit of extra help
 - who are preparing for auditions like All-State, Honor Band, College Scholarships, etc. These students need plenty of time to practice and receive one on one instruction.
- **Intermediate Band** - think of this as the "on level" ensemble for students in 9th grade. This is a traditional band class where we learn the fundamentals of music performance and perform concerts. Most 9th graders and some 10th and 11th graders will take this as their band class.
- **Advanced Band** is a step up from intermediate band. This group is a little bigger, the music is more advanced, and they play more concerts. Again, this is a traditional band class where we work on the fundamentals of music and performance.

- **Intro to Music Theory** is the study of the tools and techniques for music analysis and composition. We learn about scales, chords, notation, harmony, form, song writing, etc.

- **AP Music Theory** - this is an Advanced Placement class offered by the College Board that prepares students for the AP Music Theory Exam.

Extracurricular

- **Marching Band** - the Spartan band plays at all home and away football games, pep rallies and other school functions, and community events. We practice on Tues and Thurs from 4-6 during football season.
- **Jazz Band** - after marching season. This is a small ensemble where we work on jazz performance and improvisation.
- **Pit Orchestra** performs the orchestration for the North Springs Theatre Department's spring musical.
- **Rock Club** - students meet on Monday afternoons to practice rock music. They perform at school once a month and in the community when possible.

- **Musicology Club** meets on Wednesdays to listen to and discuss Western Art Music from composers like Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, etc.



CHANGES

Michael Brown, Band Director

This year has been amazing! The students have worked hard to come back strong after COVID, and they have sounded awesome. It has me looking forward to next year already.

I have some changes planned for school year 2022-2023. Actually, these aren't changes as much as they are a return to what has been successful for us in the past. With our strong, growing middle school program at SSMS and our successes this year at North Springs, I believe it is time to step it up a notch for next year. Here are my plans:

- **Summer Music Workouts** - 1 day a week at North Springs to work on music for a couple of hours.
- **Summer Band Camp** - we haven't really had a full band camp in a few years, and we need it.
- **Student Mentors** - our North Springs students working with and encouraging our upcoming 9th graders.
- **Recruitment** - what we do is awesome. What we do matters. What we do has made a difference in the lives of many, many students. I could write a book, seriously. It will only get better with more members on the field and in the stands. Talk to anyone you know with an 8th grader that can even hold an instrument!



SUMMER DATES

BAND DAY

Mixer with incoming 9th graders, hand out music, and learn basic marching technique.

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 1PM TO 5 PM

SUMMER MUSIC WORKOUTS

Music fundamentals, stands music, and show music.

1-3PM ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS:

- JUNE 2, 14, & 28
- JULY 12, 14, 26, & 28
- AUGUST 2 & 4 FROM 5-7PM

BAND CAMP

Learn the halftime show, stands music, and marching fundamentals

JULY 18-22 FROM 1-9PM

OFFICER WORK DAY

Paint the field and prepare the band room for camp.

JULY 18 FROM 9-11AM



WHY?

The suprising benefits of band...

There are many reasons why we do band. It's fun, it's a family, we love music. However, many people don't realize that there are enormous benefits to doing band. So, the real question is, "Why wouldn't you"?

Making the music argument with music education statistics is crucial in music education advocacy. Schools with music programs have an estimated 90.2% graduation rate and 93.9% attendance rate compared to schools without music education, which average 72.9% graduation and 84.9% attendance. Schools that have music programs have an attendance rate of 93.3% compared to 84.9% in schools without music programs.

Music majors are the most likely group of college grads to be admitted to medical school. ~ Lewis Thomas, Case for Music in the Schools, Phi Delta Kappa

Students who participate in school band or orchestra have the lowest levels of current and lifelong use of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs among any group in our society. ~ H. Con. Res. 266, United States Senate

High school music students have been shown to hold higher grade point averages (GPA) than non-musicians in the same school. ~ National Educational Longitudinal Study

78% of Americans feel learning a musical instrument helps students perform better in other subjects. ~ Gallup Poll, "American Attitudes Toward Music,"

Nine out of ten adults and teenagers who play instruments agree that music making brings the family closer together. ~ Music Making and Our Schools, American Music Conference

With music in schools, students connect to each other better-greater camaraderie, fewer fights, less racism and reduced use of hurtful sarcasm. ~ Eric Jensen, Arts With the Brain in Mind

71% of Americans surveyed by the Gallup Poll believe that teenagers who play an instrument are less likely to have disciplinary problems. ~ Gallup Poll, "American Attitudes Toward Music,"

A study of 7,500 university students revealed that music majors scored the highest reading scores among all majors including English, biology, chemistry and math. ~ The Case for Music in the Schools, Phi Delta Kappa

Students who were exposed to music-based lessons scored a full 100% higher on fractions tests than those who learned in the conventional manner. ~ Neurological Research and Music Education Statistics

The schools that produced the highest academic achievement in the United States today are spending 20% to 30% of the day on the arts, with special emphasis on music. ~ International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement

Music enhances the process of learning. The systems they nourish, which include our integrated sensory, attention, cognitive, emotional and motor capacities, are shown to be the driving forces behind all other learning. ~ Konrad, R.R.,

Empathy, Arts and Social Studies
Teaching through the arts motivates children and increases their aptitude for learning. ~ Eric Jensen, *Arts With the Brain in Mind*

During moments of musical euphoria, blood travels through the brain to areas where other stimuli can produce feelings of contentment and joy-and travels away from brain cell areas associated with depression and fear. ~ Dr. Frederick Tims, reported in *AMC Music News*

95% of Americans in a Gallup Poll believe that music is a key component in a child's well-rounded education; three quarters of those surveyed feel that schools should mandate music education. ~ *Gallup Poll, "American Attitudes Toward Music"*

With music instruction in schools, teachers found that students were less aggressive. ~ *Konrad, R.R., Empathy, Arts and Social Studies*

Martin Gardiner of Brown University tracked the criminal records of Rhode Island residents from birth through age 30, and he concluded the more a resident was involved in music, the lower the person's arrest record. ~ *Music Linked to Reduced Criminality, MuSICA Research Notes*

Students of lower socioeconomic status who took music lessons in grades 8-12 increased their math scores significantly as compared to non-music students. But just as important, reading, history, geography and even social skills soared by 40%. ~ Gardiner, Fox, Jeffrey and Knowles

54% of American households reported having a least one musical instrument player, the highest figure since the study began in 1978. ~ Gallup Poll, *"American Attitudes Toward Music"*

The College Entrance Examination Board found that students in music appreciation scored 63 points higher on verbal and 44 points higher on math than students with no arts participation. ~ *College-Bound Seniors National Report: Profile of SAT Program Test Takers*. Princeton, NJ: The College Entrance Examination Board

The world's top academic countries place a high value on music education. Hungary, Netherlands and Japan have required music training at the elementary and middle school levels, both instrumental and vocal, for several decades. ~ International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IAEEA) Test

College-age musicians are emotionally healthier than their non-musician counterparts for performance anxiety, emotional concerns and alcohol-related problems. ~ *Houston Chronicle*

Music training helps under-achievers. Students lagging behind in scholastic performance caught up to their fellow students in reading and surpassed their classmates in math by 22% when given music instruction over seven months. ~ Nature (music education statistics article)

The arts are one of the six subject areas in which the College Board recognizes as essential in order to thrive in college. ~ Academic Preparation for College: What Students Need to Know and Be Able to Do

The arts produce jobs, generating an estimate \$37 billion with a return of \$3.4 billion in federal income taxes. ~ American Arts Alliance Fact Sheet

Students taking courses in music performance and music appreciation scored higher in the SAT than students with no arts participation. Music performance students scored 53 points higher on the verbal and 39 points higher on the math. Music appreciation students scored 61 points higher on the verbal and 42 points higher on the math. ~ College-Bound Seniors National Report: Profile of SAT Program Test Takers, The College Entrance Examination Board, Princeton, New Jersey

According to the National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988, music students received more academic honors and awards than non-music students. A higher percentage of music participants received As, As/Bs, and Bs than non-music participants. ~ *National Center for Education Statistics, Washington D.C.*

Lewis Thomas, physician and biologist, found that music majors comprise the highest percentage of accepted medical students at 66%. ~ "The Case for Music in the Schools," Phi Delta Kappan

Research made between music and intelligence concluded that music training is far greater than computer instruction in improving children's abstract reasoning skills. ~ Neurological Research, Vol. 19

"The arts enrich communities and employees, and also stimulate the kind of intellectual curiosity our company needs to stay competitive." ~ Norma R. Augustine, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Martin Marietta Corporation

"A grounding in the arts will help our children to see; to bring a uniquely human perspective to science and technology. In short, it will help them as they grow smarter to also grow wiser. ~ Robert E. Allen, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, AT&T Corporation, in "America's Culture Begins with Education"

Arts Education aids students in skills needed in the workplace: flexibility, the ability to solve problems and communicate; the ability to learn new skills, to be creative and innovative, and to strive for excellence. ~ Joseph M. Calahan, Director of Corporate Communications, Xerox. Corporation

Music Is One of Our Greatest Economic Exports. "The arts are an economic plus — second only to aerospace as our most lucrative national export." ~ *Michael Greene of The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences*

Music and Spatial Task Performance: A Casual Relationship. Music lessons, and even simply listening to music, can enhance spatial reasoning performance, a critical higher-brain function necessary to perform complex tasks including mathematics. ~ Frances Rauscher, Ph.D., Gordon Shaw, Ph.D., University of California, Irvine

I believe arts education in music, theater, dance and the visual arts is one of the most creative ways we have to find the gold that is buried just beneath the surface. They (children) have an enthusiasm for life, a spark of creativity, and vivid imaginations that need training...training that prepares them to become confident young men and women. As I visit schools around the country I see a renewed interest in arts education and a growing concern about the negative impact of cutting art and music out of curriculum. The creativity of the arts and the joy of music should be central to the education of every American child. ~ Richard W. Riley, Former U.S. Secretary of Education

Student involvement in extracurricular or co-curricular activities makes students resilient to current substance use among their peers, according to a recent statewide survey of Texas Schools. Secondary students who participated in band, orchestra or choir reported the lowest lifetime use of all substances. ~ Texas School Survey of Substance Abuse Among Students: Grades 7-12

Studying Music Strengthens Students' Academic Performance. Rhode Island studies have indicated that sequential, skill-building instruction in art and music integrated with the rest of the curriculum can greatly improve children's performance in reading and math. ~ "Learning Improved by Arts Training" by Martin Gardiner, Alan Fox, Faith Knowles, and Donna Jeffrey, Nature

As you can see, we have overwhelming evidence that there are academic, social, cognitive, behavioral, and emotional benefits resulting from the study of music and participation in music programs. So the question is not "Why do music?", the question is, "Why would you not do music?"



WHERE ARE WE GOING?

The Next Five Years

We have an exciting few years ahead. COVID was tough for us, so I'm looking forward to moving into the next chapter of North Springs and the band program. We have several goals over the next five years as we prepare to move into a new building and a new role as a community school.

- **New Uniforms** - the marching band will be getting new uniforms for the fall of 2022.
- **Double our size** - in the next five years the marching band will double in size. Bigger is often better in the marching band world.
- **Halftime Show** - new format, more like a super bowl halftime. I want to get more kids involved with drums, guitars, electric strings, vocalists, etc. I want to see something that represents the uniqueness and musical heritage of North Springs and Atlanta.
- **Drum Line** - new drum line instruments and equipment.
- **Auditions** - increase by 20% year over year the number of students who audition for All-State, Honor Band, Solo & Ens. Fest, etc.



What do our alumni say?

*What's the big deal? It's just band. I say it all the time - **band is not just band**. In fact, band is not just music. I have seen too many students change, grow, become leaders, find friends for life, and feel "at home" to believe it's "just band". I can't count the number of seniors that have told me that band was the best thing that happened to them in high school.*

We have thirty years of research into music education to show us the enormous benefits that come from playing an instrument and participating in band. From better grades to feelings of purpose to better social adjustment, band does a lot to improve the lives of our students.

Of course I'm going to say all of this - I believe in what I am doing. However, don't just take my word for it, read what current and former band members have to say about their experience.



Why Band?



Joining Band was, hands down, the best decision I made in high school. The Band's comradery, the travelling, the shows, and specifically Band Director, Michael Brown, made a huge impact on me as a musician and performer. My involvement with Marching Band, Wind Ensemble, Steel Drum Ensemble, and Pit Orchestra all further developed my love for music. I currently live in Nashville, TN and I'm a full-time musician, fiddling and singing in a couple of bands that tour around the country and internationally. I graduated from North Springs in 2008, but every time I think about high school, the memory nearly always has something to do with Band, and I am so happy to have the life-long friends and memories because of it.

- Kevin Martin

Why Band?

Hello prospective North Springs Band students! My name is Allie Sinatra (Class of 2017), and my primary instrument is French horn. I was an active member of North Springs Band for four years, where I participated in many ensembles, including concert band, marching band, pit orchestra, full orchestra, a brass quintet, and a woodwind quintet. Mr. Brown also encouraged me to audition for honor bands, All-State, Governor's Honors, and the Emory Youth Symphony Orchestra. North Springs Band has it all: a built-in social life, exciting trips (to Universal, NYC, & more!), leadership opportunities to boost your resume, and, of



course, the life-changing chance to make music with friends. There are endless opportunities with Mr. Brown and North Springs Band!

I loved band and music so much, I decided to become a music teacher! After high school graduation, I attended Berry College for an undergraduate degree in music education. While I was there, I continued to perform in ensembles, teach music classes of my own, and make some side money teaching private lessons and performing as a freelance artist. I graduated from college this past May, and now live in North Philadelphia where I teach music at a tuition-free private middle school. North Springs' Band certainly inspired me to pursue music education, and for that I am forever grateful.

- Allison Sinatra

Why Band?

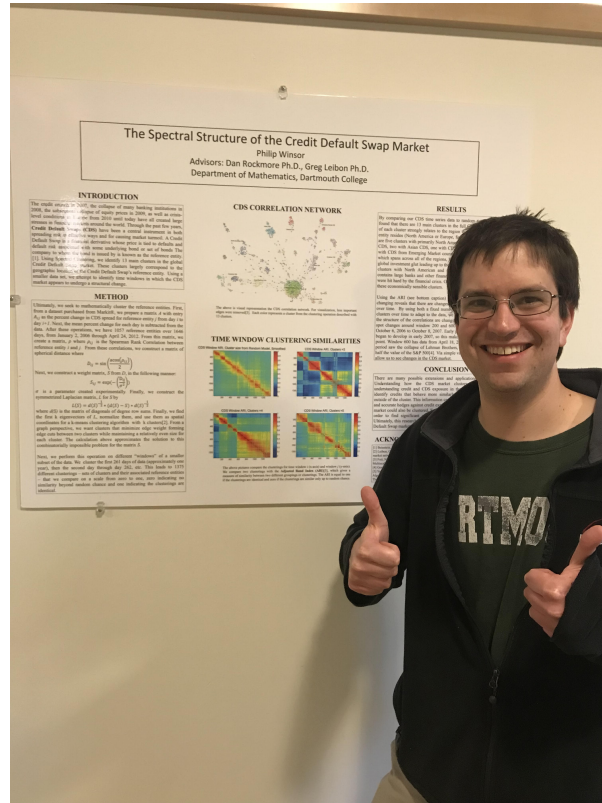
The skills I gained during my time in the NSHS marching band have paid dividends well into my future. From my first day of camp, I learned to appreciate the value of hard work. Marching band requires a high level of effort, but if given, it will absolutely pay off. After countless hours of practice and performance, I earned a first place drum major award my senior year. I then translated that success into academic and professional achievements including graduating Valedictorian of my undergraduate class, graduating in the top 10% of my Emory law school class, and my current position as a senior associate at a top-tier law firm. I have no doubt



that where I am today is a direct result of what began on a single Friday night in eighth grade. During that experience with the Marching Spartans, I found the joy that comes from achieving together with my bandmates. All that aside, the most valuable take aways from marching band are the relationships. After four years playing with the Spartans, I continued my marching career in college, where I met my now husband (he was on the drumline!) And, to this day, some of my closest friends are those that I marched with almost twenty years ago.

- Lili Martin-Mashburn, NSHS class of 2006

Why Band?



Hi Everyone -- My name is Phil Winsor, NSHS Class of 2008, and I was in the marching and concert bands for all four years of high school playing clarinet. I graduated from Dartmouth College in 2012 with a degree in Mathematics and Economics, and for the last nine years I have worked at a large investment management firm. Currently, I manage a team of investment professionals in our Portfolio Management unit, where we work to implement new investment strategies and products for our clients. In band, I started and maintained some of my closest friendships, while having a lot of fun and learning tremendously about music in general. Also -- I first met my fiancé in marching band in college, making it hard to imagine what my life would have been like without band!

- Phil Winsor

Why Band?

Fall 2001 was the beginning of my life changing at the ripe, young age of 13. As an 8th grader sitting amongst the 150+ high school marching band, I fell in love with band and the show we put on for hundreds every football game during the season. In my four years, I learned valuable leadership skills and managed to graduate w/ a 3.5 GPA - even with juggling pit orchestra, marching band, wind ensemble and full orchestra ensembles (amongst other things). I made lifetime friends (two of which were my bridesmaids in my wedding and still close to me to this day) and found myself in a new “family” of people. Mr. Brown made it fun for me - we go way back (to 2003)! He encouraged me to get involved in the community (mentorship, events around town) and challenged me with new experiences like picking up a guitar or trying AP Music Theory. Being in band also gave me a sense of purpose since I wasn't an athlete, and I didn't think I was good at anything else except socializing. I also found the band room to be like a sanctuary. I still find myself conducting songs from time to time and listening to old pieces we performed from my time in band. I enjoy reminiscing on good times from way back then and will visit from time to time. It's worth the hours of rehearsal, the long bus rides, the literal blood, sweat and tears. Those memories will be incredible to look back on in 10-15 years or even longer.

- Lindsey Macias



Why Band?



After graduating from North Springs, I attended Southern Polytechnic State University, and graduated with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering Technology. I'm currently working as a product design engineer in Villa Rica, GA. In high school, marching band was everything to me. All of my friends were in the band, and I really enjoyed the times I had. The memories I made and the friends I gained are life-lasting. Marching Spartan for life!

- Curtice Garnett, NSHS class of 2008.

Why Band?



My name is Kevin See. I'm an alumni and a professional trumpet player. I've been performing all over the southeast since I graduated in 2013. I studied jazz and trumpet performance at GSU. I've gotten to open for Lady Gaga's jazz quintet at her private birthday party, met rappers like Big Boi and Killer Mike by chance in the recording studio, and performed with artists including Randy Brecker, Bobby Shew, Joe Gransden, and more. Along with light teaching, I work primarily as a contractor for east coast entertainment. My time in the NS band programs was critical in my development not just as a professional trumpet player, but also as a human being. Mr. Brown has a magical way of getting students to get invested in not just the class/program, but the pursuit of true musicianship. Whether you continue to play after graduation or not, the life skills and appreciation for music will last a lifetime.

- Kevin See

Why Band?

Marching band at North Springs was one of the best fun and consistent experiences that I had throughout high school! I started playing tenor saxophone in 6th grade and was introduced to the alto in high school. I was actually very shy to try new things in 9th grade but my mom pushed me to do marching band cause she knew I would enjoy the music and the friendships that came with it considering she did it in high school and college. Band was a difficult challenge but I grew to love the sound of music and not to mention the exercise from marching. The feeling of playing new songs you've memorized all week on Friday night for everyone to hear and turn up to is unmatched. Showing my family what the band could do as a team was always something special that I looked forward to weekly. So much so that I encouraged my younger sister to also play sax and she's currently in here junior year in high school as the section leader. Band is just another way to express yourself differently. Since graduating in 2012, I went to Tuskegee University to study pre-vet but I also marched sax as a Crimson Piper. So to say I was loyal to my instrument is an understatement! Band is hard work that you have to push yourself through but the reward is plentiful and you can make long lasting friendships. I currently am married to a former precisionist/drum major. Our children are destined to be band kids with the oldest playing flute and the youngest on the drums. Marching band makes memories for a lifetime!

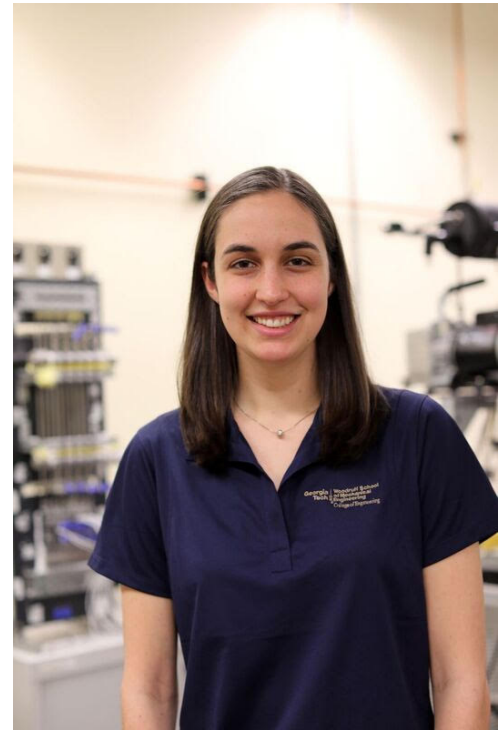


- *Kyani Trice(Norton)*

Why Band?

My name is Elizabeth Gilbert and I was a member of the North Springs marching and concert bands from 2012 - 2016. I cannot speak highly enough about the positive impact that music has held in my life, and especially the personal growth I experienced while I was a member of the band at North Springs. One of my favorite stories to tell is how when I came into my audition for the music magnet with Mr. Brown, I was afraid of my own sound and frankly on the verge of tears because I was so scared to play for someone else. But, by my senior year I had auditioned for and been elected drum major of the Spartan Marching Band. One of the coolest things about music, aside from music itself, is the community that comes along with it. After high school, I went to Georgia Tech to pursue my degree in Mechanical Engineering and immediately found a home with the marching band. Four years of college marching band brought me some of the most incredible experiences, to watch honestly - sometimes not so great football (go jackets!), visit other colleges, travel to tournaments and bowl games, and even play Madison Square Garden (basketball pep band counts, right?). Now as I am finishing up my Master's degree at Tech, I've been reflecting on my years in college and every step of the way music has had an influence in getting me to where I am today: ready to take on a new stage of life and hopefully finding a local music group to play with.

- Elizabeth Gilbert



Why Band?



My favorite high school memories revolve around being in the North Spring High School Marching Band and the friends I made through it. The band was an automatic community (including 9-12 grade students) and it was so fun to stay after school on Fridays, eat dinner, then go crazy dancing and playing songs in the stands (In college, being in the marching band is an automatic community, too!). It didn't matter that the football team was horrible all 4 years! I was in several different extracurricular activities and clubs but marching band was where I made the most friends and had the most fun during school and after school hours. I was a trumpet player then became a drum major and now am a professional orchestra conductor. Being the drum major of the North Springs Marching Band was my first conducting experience, so it hugely impacted my life!! I owe so much to Mr. Brown and my four years in the band. I highly encourage you to give it a try!!!

- *Tamara S. Dworetz*

*Lecturer of Music & Conducting
Conductor, Rensselaer Orchestra & Concert Choir
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute*

Why Band?



I graduated from North Springs in 2008, went on to study at Georgia Tech & Harvard Business School, and now reside in San Francisco, California, where I lead product & engineering teams at a top technology company. Band at North Springs, with Mike Brown at the helm, was the absolute center of my high school experience — sure, I learned how to play a musical instrument, but I learned a whole lot more than that. Band is where I learned how to be part of a team and a leader, it's where I learned how hard work & preparation pay off, and it's where I met amazing people who are still some of my closest friends today. Thank you, North Springs band, for all you've given me!

- Sean McGee, Class of 2008, Marching Band & Wind Ensemble

Why Band?



I was asked to write a few words on how North Springs High School Marching Band helped shape my life after high school. I love music, I mean really love music so naturally the band was my thing. It gave me an opportunity to block out all the negativity in my life and just play. It also served as an instrument to channel creativity. After graduation I attended Alabama State University on a Band Scholarship; music paid for my education!

I now serve in the US Army as an Automotive Maintenance Warrant Officer (Mechanic stuff is one of my other passions) but I don't think I would have made it this far without the Band. It keeps me out of trouble and instilled goal-oriented thinking in me and till this day I'm thankful I had the opportunity to be a part of something bigger than myself, where we could come together, get in tune, and make magic.

- *Mike Jack*

Why Band?

As a Sandy Springs middle school band student, I could not wait to join the North Springs High School band. My sister was a NSHS cheerleader at the time, but I knew band was going to be “my thing.”

I still have the fondest memories of my very first band camp. The trumpet section had the biggest personalities— and the most welcoming people! We had an amazing time learning the show, and I felt so much a part of the bigger picture.

This feeling of belonging is what got me hooked on band. I really enjoyed being part of the process of learning a show, taking it to competitions, and having the personal pride in making it better each Friday night.

In the fall and spring semesters, concert band with Mr. Brown made me fall in love with music even more. Not only did we concentrate on playing what was on the page, but Mr. Brown really drew the music out of us. He helped me understand the next level music can develop into when you play with feeling.

I ended up studying Music Education in college, and after teaching middle school band for several years, I enlisted as a trumpet player in the US Army Band.

I have now started a new career outside of music, and the work ethic I learned in band has stayed with me with each new skill I learn. Band has literally opened the doors for me time and time again, and I have my experiences at North Springs to thank for that!

- *Devon Phillips (Schmidt)*





North Springs High School
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Sandy Springs, GA 30041



Fulton
County Schools
Where Students Come First