

Moving to the beat of their own drum

By: Mary Plona

It was not just the fun, the laughs, and the uniforms, but it was the hard work and team commitment that made Winter Color Guard all worthwhile. During the year a new coach and new team members left Winter Color Guard full of opportunities.

The guard was split into Scholastic A for members refining their skills, and Regional A for members who were just learning guard.

"In auditions for Scholastic A, we performed flag and dance routines for judges who then decided who made the guard," said **Kaydee Hammer, 11**.

Guard members always knew how to have fun. They worked hard, and kept a positive attitude.

"Even when you make a mistake, or get hit on the head by a flag, everyone understands and just laughs. Its great to be around all of the different personalities," said **Brittanny Argyriou, 9**.

Though Winter Guard was full of inside jokes and silly moments, it was not always all fun and games. Coaches **Stephanie Miller** and **Meranda Hicks** kept the girls on task during their hard practices on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Practices lasted from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Guard also had competitions on Saturdays. Winter guard's hard work brought home an award from the WGI championships they had fought so hard for!



Brynn Sharp, 9, joins the flagline during one of the early Winter Color Guard practices. **Sharp** practiced often, and threw a solid three count toss. **Sharp** remembered struggling at first in guard, but once she practiced hard and asked for help from her teammates, it all became easy.

Valerie Rozzo, 11, practices spinning her rifle before Winter Color Guard tryouts. **Rozzo** said that the hardest part of guard is rifle because it was most difficult learn how to catch. Rifle was eventually her favorite because it brought the biggest challenge. **Rozzo's** favorite flag toss is the three count toss because it flies high!



Megan Lucas, 10, had a blast in her second season of guard. She tried out for the rifle line, and learned new difficult tosses. **Lucas'** favorite part of guard was the close friends and the bus rides to competition.

What did you say?

"Guard was difficult, but I dont know what I would have done without it."

-**Valerie Rozzo, 11**

"Pep Band is my favorite activity, by far."

-**Allison Coleman, 11**

"I love the good friends and the awesome competitions in Winter Drumline."

-**Natalie Sayre, 12**

Four terrific trumpets, five superb saxophones, four trombones, two perfect piano players, a great guitarist, and few dashing drummers made up one excellent Jazz Ensemble. The Jazz Ensemble worked very hard this year. Practice, led by **Mr. Gary Langhorst**, was held on Mondays from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm and Wednesday from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm.

"We spend a lot of time with repetition on pieces trying to get every part perfect, while having a great time doing so," said **Casey Weissbuch, 12**.

This group worked very hard, and it paid off. Not only did it perform at Pancake Day and concerts for family and friends, it attended the Jazz Festival in Louisville. Jazz Ensemble knew how to work hard and always did well, but they also knew how to have fun.

"Our best memories are the quotes that we kept for the back of the Jazz Ensemble t-shirt," said **Taylor Williams, 12**.

Jazz Ensemble was made up of the 18 best jazz musicians in school, and they did a great job.



Gabriel De Vela, 10, and **Anthony Huron, 12**, string together chords of beautiful jazz music. The Jazz Band practiced diligently for the concert in Louisville. They all looked forward to the trip as well as the competition.