

Arizona Arts Proficiency Seal

Queen Creek Unified School District

Capstone Reflection

Thinking about the process and product of your Capstone, reflect upon what you are most proud of and what you might do differently if you were to complete a similar project in the future.

Reflecting on the process and product of my capstone, I would say I am overall very happy. I am very proud of the fact that this project has not felt like a burden weighing on my shoulders. For me, this project was very easy. Both the process and product were simple. I say simple because music is all I know and it is all I do. I constantly get the questions, “why do you do music? and why do you love it?”, and I never know how to answer it without just saying “because”. I eat, sleep and breathe the arts. However, the only thing I would change about my project is schedule timing. Life happens and sometimes there are things that are just inevitable. If I were to do a similar project in the future, I would select a presentation date right from the beginning instead of towards the end. Rescheduling is not fun, especially if you have many parties in your group. Other than that, this project has been a huge success and blast. I hope to be able to do similar projects in the future.

Explain how your life experiences are reflected through your project.

Many of my life experiences are reflected through my piece. For example, during covid, no one could be around one another. My favorite thing at the time was small ensemble literatures, especially flute quartets. This was when I discovered my favorite composer Herman Beftink and I really wanted to perform a couple quartets of his.. But I couldn't. I had no way of making a small flute ensemble without the risk of getting sick or endangering others. So, I came up with a solution. I started to record myself playing all the parts, and I stitched them together! After a while, it became a thing that everyone did. Without this experience, I wouldn't have the technological and musical technique that I have now. The trio that I performed in my capstone is a reflection of the hard times that everyone had to endure. I found happiness in the darkest of times.

Another example of a life experience reflected through my capstone is discipline. I had chosen both my solo and quartet a year before I had any plan of pursuing a capstone project. It wasn't until earlier this year that I wanted to complete a capstone of my own. I knew that it wouldn't be a challenge because I already possessed that needed self-discipline. This goes back to the question that I get a lot, “Why music?” and it's just because it is who I am.

Thinking about the Extra-curricular hours you completed, reflect upon what you learned through the experiences and/or how you have been impacted as an artist?

Extracurriculars are the types of activities that you have to WANT to work for. They are the activities that require more effort than the regular everyday routine ones, but for me, they were routine. I can confidently say that I have completed more extracurricular activity hours in the past four years than I have in my entire life.

My experience through the arts has shown me that if you want the outcome, then you better work for it. This has hugely impacted me both as a person and an artist. I've learned some very valuable life lessons just through marching band alone, some of which include; time management, responsibility, individuality, friendship and working with others. As a freshman, I wasn't even going to continue in the band. I had the bright idea of becoming a nurse but at the end of the day, I knew that wasn't what I truly wanted to do. My many many hours in the beaming Arizona sun, my burning flute and an awful farmer tan, has taught me that the effort is worth your while. I am glad I decided to do the extracurriculars that I most definitely sacrificed many things for, because they have only set me up for success. I am now better prepared to continue on my music journey.

How is your life positively impacted by the arts?

Right before high school, I was supposed to move across the country. This was a huge and stressful moment in my life. At the time, I was struggling mentally, and in many other ways. I felt alone, but I always had music. My flute was the highlight of my day - the outlet. After many tears and long discussions, we ended up staying. I re-enrolled into school right at the end of first quarter my freshman year. I was full on set in my tracks that I wasn't going to do band. I wanted to pursue a career as a nurse because I could support myself financially. However, let's just say there was A LOT of begging and persuading from my peers, Mr. Davenport and my dad. Especially my dad. I eventually caved in and I am glad that I did. If I hadn't joined band coming into high school, I don't know if I would have survived. Joining band was the best decision I ever made. It has opened up so many opportunities and doors for me. It has made me realize that music is what I want to pursue in the future! I eat, sleep and breathe the arts, so if you see me, I always have some sort of instrument in my hand. I am forever grateful for the positive impact that music has on my life.

How do you plan to include artistic experiences in your future after high school?

I plan to indulge myself in as many artistic experiences that life can throw at me. Even though pursuing a career in the arts is completely advised against, I don't mind. I don't mind not being as successful as my peers who are taking on medical degrees or becoming underwater welders, I am going to stick to what makes me who I am – music. I am already enrolled at the University of Oklahoma and planning to study Music. With that being said, I am continuing my journey on growing as a musician into my college career, and I hope to become a world renowned flutist. I wish to perform in top symphonies and create my own community Flute Choir.

I hope to also open my own studio and provide young aspiring musicians private lessons. Lets just say, my music experiences are not stopping anytime soon.

What advice would you give an incoming freshmen about studying the arts to help them make the most of their experiences while in high school?

The best set of advice I can give an incoming freshman is don't be afraid. Don't be afraid to try something new. I know when I was a freshman, I had every plan in the world to quit band and focus on nursing. Why? Well.. because I was trying to follow into something that would help support me in the future, but at the end of the day, It wasn't what I loved. I realized that the arts are just more than music, it's also photography, cooking, art and so much more. If you're interested in something you love, then go for it! I know my love for music has only grown since taking that first step out of the dark and choosing studying music – pursuing that passion.

Studying something you love will make your experience all the more better. Especially through art. There is so much room for experiment and growth. High School is practically 4 years of torture. There's a reason why they call it Seven Cruel Hours Of Our Lives. Why not spend it doing the things you love? Just don't be afraid. These words of advice are not only for studying the arts, it's a life lesson that everyone should learn. Enjoy it.