



Middle school and high school students perform together at the Brass Ensemble Concert on Jan. 30.

Young and breathless

Concert and Jazz bands play more than just music

By Sebastian Manzanares

In middle school, every student had an activity that they looked forward to every day. It could be a sport, a club, a class, or seeing their friends. Whether it happened after school or during the day, they anticipated it to be the highlight of the day. Almost every time, it proved to be true.

For Nathan Dankers '20, the band was his escape. He practiced his alto saxophone everyday and had aspirations to pursue a music teaching career.

One of Danker's band directors at Wayne Carle Middle School in Westminster had the biggest impact on him.

"She made it fun," Dankers said. "She made the band awesome."

His director saw his passion for music. She recommended that he abandon his home school of Standley Lake to join the band program at Monarch.

"She told me that there was a killer program at Monarch, and I decided to follow her advice," he said.

Santiago Marquez '21 is a percussionist in Monarch's concert band. His introduction to Monarch came through the band during the summer of his sophomore year after he transferred from Fairview High School.

Marquez believes that the band helped him integrate

into Monarch. It helped him meet people who would become his friends.

"I felt welcomed," Marquez said. "I knew people before coming [to Monarch], and then they introduced me to a ton of my other friends."

Band members eat together, hang out after school, and help each other with any issues they have.

Practices aren't always the highlight of any athlete's career, and the band is no exception to this, especially after a multitude of hours that are put into one big performance with a large group of people.

"At times people will be annoying, and sometimes the directors are, too," Dankers said. "But in the end, we all have a blast."

Paige Harvey '20 has been performing in jazz and concert band for the past seven years. She hopes to be a music director when she grows up. She believes in a family-oriented group within the band, and it's something that she admires about it.

"When I joined the marching band, there weren't too many kids from my band program from my old school with me," she said. "I met so many new people who were welcoming and ready for me to join."