

REVEAL

Jolina Andrews '22 reveals her story behind baton twirling for the school and how she got into it

You may recognize her as the baton girl and you've probably noticed her at the football games and other sporting events nailing some awesome moves. **Jolina Andrews '22** has been baton twirling for about four years now and looked forward to her role with the marching band performance.

"I started in dance and gymnastics but I found that those sports didn't fit me," she said about struggling to find her niche. Andrews turned to her mom who had done baton twirling while growing up.

Her mom never wanted to be the type of parent who forced her kid into an activity because she had done it, but when Andrews asked to try out baton twirling her mom was happy to hear that her daughter wanted to find herself in her hobby.

Andrews fell in love with it "from the first time I picked up a baton." She finally found her niche and now works in and out of school to be better for each and every performance.

"I'm mostly just trying to have fun cause if you're not having fun then what's the point?"
—Jolina Andrews '22

When she came to Eaglecrest, she was terrified of people disliking her but when she saw how happy everyone was when she revealed her talent to the school she was surprised by all the "love and support." She was happy to have found a place to be her best self. "It just makes me so happy, it's become like a second family to me," Andrews said.

Although she's out there performing as the lone twirler, she is considered a part of the color guard team. "I think it's complicated! Personally I would say that I'm my own thing but I think I have to technically be a part of something so I guess I'm a part of color guard," she said.

Having a place in high school can be important but to Andrews, she's a part of something that is bigger than herself. She works alongside color guard because that's where she belongs and they have welcomed her with open arms.

Outside of school, she also competes in baton twirling competitions. It can be nerve wracking being down on the track with all eyes on you but she handles it with grace. "There are a couple things, mainly not dropping and then always making sure that the crowd is engaging. If the crowd is not happy or cheering then you know you're not doing your job," Andrews said. "I'm not too focused on catching every time but on having a good time with the crowd."



"I think it's so brave for her to be out there in front of a huge crowd just doing her thing." —Noah Skinner '19

SMILING AT THE CROWD
Jolina Andrews '22 looks up at the crowd with big eyes and a heart-warming smile after her performance at halftime.