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### What Drives Me

For as long as I can remember, I have loved music. Most people enjoy listening to music, but I have a deeper appreciation for music. I love playing instruments, singing, creating music with other people, the history of music, and learning about the effects of music on our minds, but most importantly, I love teaching music to others. I believe my love of music comes from the way I have grown up with it. My whole family is filled with fantastic musicians who all love music the way I do. Some teach music for a living, some play in musical groups, and some simply enjoy it as a hobby, but music was always present at every family gathering. My favorite family tradition is once a year, every labor day, our family has a get together for three days, and on the second night, we form a family band and play songs together for hours. For just a few hours of the year, we all get to have a break from our everyday lives, and enjoy our love of music together as a family.

I love sharing the joy of music with others, that is why what drives me is my goal for the future to become a music teacher to young people. Throughout my middle school and high school years, my music teachers helped to strengthen my affinity for music, but they also taught me valuable life lessons that made me a successful person. They helped me to realize my passion for teaching music to others, and I hope I am able to nurture others' passions in the future. I aspire to be like my past teachers and spread my love of music to young adults. I also want to

help them to become successful, capable people in the world, not just musicians. Like most students my age, I have struggled with anxiety and depression after the pandemic. Through the years of dealing with this, I have found that music can help to lift me up when I am down. I want nothing more than to help other students like me have a way to feel better when they are down. Moreover, I want to help kids find a way to cope with their mental struggles by showing them how music can be a source of comfort.

I am driven by my dream of being a music educator because I wish to nurture young minds through music the way that I was. I wish to show others the same comfort music brought me and spread the positivity music brings. With the help of the What Drives You scholarship, I can continue on the road towards my dreams.