

ARLINGTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL
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Music Department

June 14, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter in support of a fine young man, Brian Kusior, and to recommend him for your scholarship, the Drums Along The Mohawk 2016 Tour Award. My name is Richard Guillen, one of the band directors at Arlington high school and the Music Coordinator for the Arlington Central School District. I had the good fortune of working with Brian in many of the groups I direct and it was a true pleasure working with him. Brian is a fine young musician with a terrific work ethic and phenomenal attitude. In his time at Arlington High School, Brian was an integral part of our music department. As a 9th grader, Brian was principal bass clarinet in our advanced 9th grade concert band. As a 10th grader, he earned a place in our school's most advanced band, the Wind Ensemble, where he has played since then and currently serves as principal bass clarinet. He also serves as assistant principal bassoon (on bass clarinet) of our top orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, where he has played for 2 years. Brian has also performed with our Clarinet Ensemble for three years. Brian has been an exemplary member of the Arlington Admiral Marching Band for 4 years. Having been the director of that group for 9 years, I know what it takes to do what Brian has done. Especially notable is his work as a student leader in that group and also his switch to baritone horn to better serve the program. He continued to study bass clarinet privately and prepared All-State NYSSMA solos. For his last 2 years of high school, Brian's NYSSMA solo performances were strong enough to earn him a perfect score of 100 on his classical solos and because of this amazing accomplishment, he was accepted two years in a row to perform with NYSSMA Conference All-State Honors Ensembles (Symphonic Band in 2013 and Wind Ensemble in 2014). This is an incredible honor and shows how talented and hard working he is.

I have always felt there is great potential for Brian and this is now manifesting itself in the next phase of his life both in college and in his drum corps life. Simply by his actions, was, and still is, an excellent role model for other youngsters to learn from. Always actively present, on time, and prepared for rehearsals and lessons, Brian has many qualities that others can learn from and model. He is always positive, upbeat and energetic in all that he does and always wants to become better at what he does. In addition to all of his musical strengths, he was an outstanding academic student with a strong GPA and was active in the school and community as a volunteer with many groups. This is also true in his college experiences. Brian also earned the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America, an honor that is well deserved and that I was happy to recommend him for. Brian always wants to give back and grow from his experiences. He is a model young man.

On a more drum corps-centered note, I can speak to the amazing journey that Brian has been on for 2 summers. Having been a performing member of the world-champion Garfield Cadets in the late 1980's, and a staff member for a DCI corps in the early 90's, I can more than appreciate what Brian has achieved in his journey from a young, inexperienced member of the Jersey Surf Drum and Bugle Corps in the summer of 2015, to achieving one of his dreams, which is marching in a world-class final level corps like the iconic and legendary Madison Scouts in the summer of 2016. His unstoppable work ethic is incredible and I am so proud of his achievements. I know he will continue to do amazing things!

Overall, Brian is a well-rounded student who was a vital part of our department and has since gone on to do even more incredible things. His work has been exceptional, and he has a constant desire to achieve greatness, and he has a true love for music. In my 27 years as a music educator, I have had the privilege of working with many, many wonderful students. Brian is, without question, at the top of that list. He has been greatly missed here at Arlington but his legacy lives on and he continues to impress me! He has my highest recommendation. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



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