

Student Reporter



Trinity Lee
Grade 9
Interlake High School

My Experience at WMEA All-State 2022



Despite the ongoing COVID restrictions, students have gathered at The Capitol Theatre in Yakima to showcase their musical skills in WMEA All-State's Symphony Orchestra performance [Source: Author, Trinity Lee]

With COVID rampaging, traveling has only slowly declined. Not only have vacations been postponed, but activities have also come skidding to a halt. School clubs, orchestra, and competition trips have taken the brunt of COVID, leaving students disappointed. However, despite such restrictions, WMEA All-State has continued through to 2022.

WMEA All-State is a program

in which the Washington Music Educators Association selects accomplished musicians from Washington State to join in performing groups, whether it be a choir, band, or orchestra. Every year, amazing musicians audition to have a chance to travel and stay overnight for 3 days and play in the final performance that occurs at the end of the trip. But due to COVID restrictions, All-State this year was instead 1

day, unfortunately excluding the exciting aspects of staying overnight.

I was able to qualify for All-State through the skin of my teeth and placed as the third chair violist. As my first time ever attending All-State, I had no idea what to expect. Though I heard only positive ravings, I was skeptical of the newly imposed restrictions.

Upon arrival, I was pleasantly surprised to not only find many others that I quickly associated with but to also meet people from all over. Though I felt that the atmosphere was a little quiet from the lack of time allotted for introductions, by the end of the day, I found the whole orchestra to be amazingly welcoming.

Due to the limited time until the final performance, long rehearsals were demanded, lasting from 10 AM to 6 PM. However, there were

short breaks in between to talk with others and eat lunch. Despite these remissions, the long hours began to take a toll. Although I was excited for the opportunity, I could feel my energy wavering. Gradually, I could feel my body giving in to fatigue as my shoulder ached and my legs tingled from sitting. My instrument also experienced the brunt of the long hours, as the strings began to go out of tune.

However, after the performance, I was brimming with pride. The two pieces we had performed, Romanze in C., by Jean Sibelius, and the Irish Dance Suite, by Quinn Mason, went unexpectedly well, and I was shocked by the beautiful music. Though the COVID restrictions resulted in a "crammed" rehearsal, I still found my experience to be one to remember. Being able to meet a variety of people, I hope to be able to attend again from here on out.

Student Reporter



Aspen Lee
Grade 7
Santa Fe Christian
Middle School

Tucson, Arizona's Life-Changing Experience

Imagine 100 seventh-grade students from San Diego going to Tucson, Arizona for a week without their parents and families. Sounds chaotic and unimaginable. However, Santa Fe Christian's seventh-grade class made this happen. They recently returned from the Grand Canyon State with stories from helping at local homeless shelters to painting walls at churches.

Since January 2022, the teaching staff at SFC held meetings every Wednesday and Friday mornings to explain how the trip was going to work for the students. When the week of departure grew closer, ministry groups were announced and students met in classrooms every morning to get to know the senior chaperones, teachers, and other students in their group. Twenty seniors were handpicked by teachers and split into pairs to be with ten seventh graders for a week. These seniors went on this trip five years ago and shared their favorite experiences while shedding tears during worship sessions with the

younger students.

Out of the several volunteer destinations the Praying Pelican Foundation helped with, the middle school students were able to go to Hope City Church, the Gospel Rescue Mission, West Side Church, Tree of Life Church, the thrift shop, and the GAP. At Hope City Church, ministry groups spray-painted rocks for the police who were going through hard



Ministry Groups Working Together While Painting the Walls of Hope City Church [Source: Author, Camryn Remy]

times due to all the political views they might have. Some groups even repainted the walls of the church blue, white, and purple to match the calm and sweet theme of the building. The Gospel Rescue Mission was full of fun and helping, as the students organized clothes for foster children, cooked meals for homeless people, and fixed boxes and chairs. At this location, the workers who were once drug or alcohol addicts themselves

shared the Lord's message to the residents and guests. People's lives changed when they stayed sober through their courses and classes for long enough that they were able to work at the Mission center as well.

The West Side Church's head pastor, Shaun, shared his testimony with the school and served them all every night by cooking meals and baking desserts. "I told myself, there is no reason for a sinful guy like me to go to church. But I went, and that night, I met God, so I encourage y'all not to worry about how others think about your faith walk," Pastor Shaun mentioned. It struck so many hearts, and that statement made the students, who've been going to church their whole life, question their faith from a whole other perspective. There were so many great activities with so many great memories to cherish and remember. Many people stated they would do anything to go on the trip again with their friends and classmates.

Student Reporter



Angel Song
Grade 7
Walter Reed Middle School

Vandalizing the School

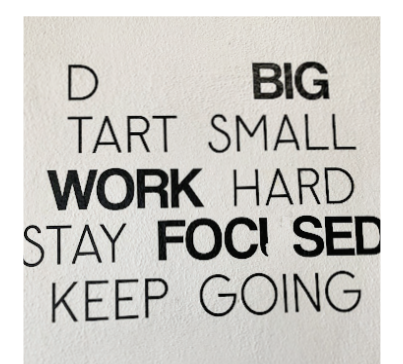
After winter break, students returned to school to find a big surprise: the administration pasted motivational stickers on the school's walls. Their motive? Encouraging their students. However, this was only the beginning of another vandalism era at the school.

Vandalism is common in many schools, and we all know that. Walter Reed Middle School is not an exception. However, the current issue at the school is that the students are constantly peeling off the stickers placed by the administration. The idea of motivating middle school students would never work out, but to the admin-

istration, it was worth trying. The attempt was a massive failure because the students are constantly peeling off the extremely flimsy stickers. There are solutions to this problem though, such as acquiring stickers with better adhesives (although the strength of the bonds does not differ from each brand as much) or even using superglue on the stickers. Or the school can opt for other ways to motivate students, such as posters, and stick those items somewhere that the students can't reach. Some, which the administration put near the ceiling, were untouched because they were placed where students couldn't get them. Thinking of other solutions like

this would certainly benefit the school in terms of appearance.

Another example of vandalism is the crude drawings on school property, such as random buildings and desks. Drawings and graffiti on the school can affect the school's image negatively. This is why schools are focusing on beautification so much, but because some of the students choose to vandalize the school by drawing on the buildings and desks, the school seems less professional and education to outsiders. These are typical examples of destruction, but considering how it is so frequent around school, it is shocking how the students have



Stickers placed around the school to help motivate students are peeled and vandalized by students [Source: Author, Angel Song]

no respect for a clean school. In order to have a good learning environment at school, the students must realize that their cooperation is necessary.

Student Reporter

Jobs of the Future



Alexis Choi
Grade 9
South High School



It can be helpful to see which jobs are going to be prevalent in the future when choosing your path!
[Source: Author, Alexis Choi]

“What do you want to be when you grow up?” This familiar, time-worn question seems deceptively innocuous. For those who find a passion early on in life, the question is indeed simple. But for individuals who have no idea what they want to do, choosing a career can feel like picking a random person out of an enormous crowd. This innocent question can be one

of the most difficult to answer.

Without strong love for a specific job, most people tend to opt for lucrative professions that will guarantee stability and success. But, as the world veers toward a technologized future, the prospects of jobs are also changing. In five to ten years, certain occupations will become major components of society while others lose their prominence, perhaps even permanently disappearing. Your childhood dream to be a flight attendant? Sorry, but robots may take over those positions quite soon.

According to predictions by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, many of the highest-paying occupations will go through significant growth in the next ten years. The first is an actuary, which is a business professional who handles the measurement and management of risk and uncertainty in a company. Through mathematics, statistics, and financial theory, they assess the risk of potential events

and help businesses and clients develop the best policies. This job is extremely complex; to become an actuary, one needs to pass a series of rigorous exams that extend over the course of many years. However, although difficult, this profession has a 24% job outlook from 2020 to 2030—much faster than average. It is also extremely high-paying; in 2020, the median salary for actuaries was \$111,030.

Another highly anticipated occupation is a physician assistant (PA). PAs are licensed medical professionals who work with physicians to provide routine patient care, including patient evaluations, education, and health care services. The 2020 median salary was \$115,390 and the job outlook is 31%.

Finally, a technical writer is expected to be another high-paying job. With a median salary of \$74,650 and a job outlook of 7%, technical writers translate complex ideas and information into a

language people can easily comprehend. Their audience may be fellow colleagues, clients, or the general public. People in this job typically have degrees in English or communications, as well as a deep understanding of mathematics, engineering, medicine, or other specific fields they write about.

Overall, it is evident that future prominent jobs will be predominantly STEM-based. In fact, jobs in a variety of fields, such as bankers, accountants, sports referees, flight attendants, and executive secretaries and assistants are predicted to be replaced by advanced technology by the end of the decade. Of course, this isn't to say that a passion is not worth pursuing if it isn't a job with a large growth outlook. Personally, I am determined to become an author, despite the minuscule odds of being extremely successful. However, if you are one of the many people undecided about your future, it may be worth considering such careers!

Student Reporter

The Young Artist Orchestra of Los Angeles Spring Concert



Rubie Choi
Grade 10
Torrance High School

On March 27, 2022, the Young Artist Orchestra of Los Angeles, YAOLA, held a spring concert at the St. Anselm of Canterbury Episcopal Church to help raise money for Ukraine refugees.

Although the concert started at 5 PM, I, as a performer, had to get to the concert hall by 3:30. After getting the stage ready and rehearsing our group songs, the concert began with greetings from special guests: Jessica Cha, who is running for Orange County superior court judge, and Sunny Park, the mayor of Buena Park. After the speakers' introductions, the concert finally began. A clarinet, trumpet, violin, as well as another cello and I, played the first song of the concert, “The Merry-Go-Round of Life” by Joe Hisaishi. Because we had been given the song's music sheets only



The cello section of the orchestra practices the song, “Libertango” before the concert.
[Source: Author, Rubie Choi]

two weeks before the concert and did not have much time to practice together, the group and I met multiple times throughout the week. I was very nervous that our short amount of practice wouldn't suffice, but thankfully, we all played each of our parts exceptionally well, which produced a wonderful

harmony and a melodious presentation. After our performance, opera singer Anastasia Malliaras sang “Caro Nome” by Giuseppe Verdi and “Villanelle” by Eva Dell'Acqua, violinist Sunny Yang played the “Violin Concerto in E minor” by Felix Mendelssohn, and cellist Yao Wang performed

“The Swan” by Saint Saens.

Finally, the recital ended with a performance by the whole orchestra, conducted by Artistic Director Daniel Suk. First, the strings of the ensemble introduced “Divertimento” by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and shortly after, the rest of the orchestra joined in. Then, we performed “Swan Lake” by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, and finally ended it with the exciting tempo of “Libertango” composed by Astor Piazzola.

After the finale, a post-concert reception was hosted where food that had been brought by volunteers was served. Ultimately, the whole show was a great experience for me as I to be a patient, consistent, team player after having practiced with others for almost four months.

Student Reporter

La Canada High School Choir in Boston



Elie Kim
Grade 11
La Canada High School

La Canada High School has a fairly large choral department, with Dr. Brookey as the choir director. It has five choirs in total, including Men's Ensemble, Women's Ensemble, 7/8 Honor Choir, Concert Choir, and Chamber Singers. 7/8 Honor Choir, Concert Choir, and Chamber Singers are all audition choirs, meaning you have to audition in order to become part of the group. Concert Choir and Chamber Singers go on tour every year with an international tour every other year. Right before COVID-19 broke out, the two choirs went on their international tour to France. Finally, after two years of being unable to travel due to COVID-19 and quarantine, they went to Boston, Massachusetts this year, and stayed there from March 24 to March 28.

On March 24, the students in Concert Choir and Chamber Singers, chaperons, principal, and choir director all met at school at

3 A.M. After everyone got on the bus, they departed for LAX and got on the plane at 6 A.M. Every day in Boston was packed with workshops, tours, and performances. Workshops are where the choirs sing in front of another choir director or choir and receive feedback. The two choirs had workshops at Berklee School of Music with their acapella group, Upper Structure, on the first day and workshops at Harvard with Dr. Clark on the second day. On the third day, they performed at the oldest church in Boston, the Old North Church, in the morning and then performed at Shore Country Day School for Festival in the afternoon. Festival is where professional judges come and give the choirs a ranking. Although there were two choirs, they performed with three choirs, including Concert Choir, Chamber Singers, and Choral Artists, which is the two choirs combined. All three choirs were awarded gold at Festival.



The La Canada High School two choirs, Concert Choir and Chamber Singers, performed at Festival where they received a ranking by three judges.
[Source: Choral Parent Association]

The two choirs didn't only sing during their tour, they also got to look around Boston. During their free time they went on a Freedom Trail tour, had free time at Harvard Square, got a tour of Fenway Park, watched the Blue Man Group show, went to the Salem Witch Museum, and went on a cruise. On the fifth day, everyone departed for the airport at 7 A.M. and arrived back in La Canada at

3 P.M.

Through the trip, everyone was able to not only learn more about music but make new friends and stronger connections with one another. One of the students in Concert Choir, Evelyn Han, stated “The trip was a whole new experience for me, and I was able to form stronger connections with everyone. It felt like I was a part of one big family.”