

Give the Gift of Music has really given my children a chance to further grasp playing their chosen instrument.

In school my younger three have had less instruction than my oldest due to the amount of children signed up for the music program and school scheduling.

My youngest, Patricia took up playing flute. After a year of instruction she really was weak and did not seem to be where she needed to be for having played as long as she did. The school seems to be more concerned about playing to their holiday music then building skills. Louis, her teacher at High Street Music started back with the basics and showed her how it was done. Yes, she maybe a second year student at school but he is helping with the foundations so she becomes a stronger player. She is proud that she can understand now what they are doing and is able to help her other band mates in school during her lesson. I am sure she will continue to become a stronger player.

Joshua has a gift and took to the trombone. He is going on his third year of playing. He really enjoys music. I find working with Bryan is helping his practicing and becoming a better player. I know I have seen a difference in his sound and quality. Right now there is a difference in his playing because he has braces and I am sure more of a

difference when his bottom braces are on but I am sure what he learning from Bryan will help him adjust his playing. I know in school he is looked at as a student leader within the 6th grade band. I am sure that lessons are helping him to be more confident in his ability.

Jake is learning to fine tune his technique while playing. In school he expected to take turns on all types of percussion instruments and never had instruction to learn how to play a kit. Our focus in school was never the kit. He is now learning the skills needed to play kit. I feel he has the ability to do it. He is gaining skills and confidence that I am sure will carry over into school.

Joe, my 10 grader has played trumpet for 7 yrs. He earned the band directors award in 8th grade. In 8th and 9th grade, He was in Inter-County band and also member of the high school marching band. He is still a member of the marching band. He receives full band credit in high school plus marching band in the afternoons. He plays so much but in a group atmosphere. I find it good to have someone work with him on an individual basis to work through his weaknesses and strengths. Able to challenge him but at the same time helping him work on other areas as well. Upper classmen from the band have noticed that his sound and skill has improved over the summer. We hope to

continue to work to make him stronger so he can build his confidence to try out for college band.

All in all I have seen all 4 kids improve on their instruments and enjoy playing more then I thought they would. Music and the love of music is evident in their lives.

Thank you for the opportunity given to them. They would not have had this any other way.