

Marina Bertuzzelli - Suncoast High School



I go to a school that is known for having bad teachers. I've seen teachers who don't care if their students get the material and teachers who have no idea what they're teaching. Throughout my four years of high school, I find that I'm teaching myself more than learning from teachers. Very rarely do I get a teacher that knows what they're doing and is actually excited to teach. It makes me happy to see people who love their job and other people are benefiting from it.

That's why I want to teach. I love the idea that I'll be able to help a student find their potential and hopefully inspire someone to be the next Steve Jobs or the next Elon Musk. I get so happy when I'm helping someone in class on something they don't understand and they go "Oh, that makes sense!" I love seeing the "Aha moment" people get when they finally master something.

Earlier this year, I got to choreograph the musical for my school and teach all new dances to 25 people who have never danced before. I at first wasn't ready to take on the task but when the director told me that we had no money to hire someone, she guilted me into accepting the job.

At first I was nervous because I felt like I had to prove myself to not just the director, but the cast as well. It was my first time doing something like this and I had to be able to command respect from the cast that I had lunch with 2 hours before rehearsal. Eventually I was able to get in the groove of things and get everyone to listen to me so I could teach them what to do.

My next problem was: how do I teach people a dance when they don't know how to? A lot of people had no dance experience and there were some people where it was their first show. Not only did I have to teach the dance steps but I had to teach the cast how to dance and why the steps are done that way.

Eventually I taught all the dance numbers in the show and worked with the cast to make sure they got everything right. I got to watch the whole show and see everyone and see everyone dance their little hearts out.

I hope that in the future I will be able to teach students and inspire them to do whatever they want. I want to be able to keep having rewarding experiences just like the one I had last year. Nothing would make me happier.

Spencer Bailen - Suncoast High School



If I receive this scholarship it will help me achieve the college education I desire and assist with opportunities throughout my college career. Although I acknowledge that it's not probable to receive my college education without debt, this scholarship will decrease the amount of money I will have to take in the form of student loans. The student loan crisis has settled many young college graduates with enormous loans. By taking advantage of Government funding, school merit scholarship, and outside scholarships I am hoping to prevent financial instability in my future.

I am deserving of this scholarship because of my past achievements and the accolades I have received because of my excellence in many different fields such as academics, athletics, and music. In addition, I have achieved many of my musical accomplishments

within a short period of time and have a lot of potential that will hopefully blossom as I experience life.

As an undergraduate, I will be pursuing a Voice Performance Major. At college and after graduating, I want to continue to perform with different choirs and groups, or as a soloist. Performing is an exhilarating and exciting experience. The more experience and exposure I have, the better and less nervous I become. In addition, I have realized through performances at several events, such as at the Gold Star Family Monument Ceremony and Honor Flight, that music and my voice inspires other people. And, I wish to continue to do so as I grow and develop as a performer.

As a college graduate with a BM Vocal Performance degree, I will have a variety of career options, and I look forward to the many opportunities that will become available to me. I want to continue to perform on all levels. However, I would enjoy giving lessons to aspiring students at a studio, or on my own. Regardless of where the road ahead brings me, my initial goal to inspire and entertain people will not change. Whether it be through private lessons, being the cantor at church, or performing at different events, music and performance will always be my passion.

Although these are my dreams for the future, I do realize pursuing a career in the field of music can be risky because of stiff competition and scarce opportunities. I am aware of these risks, which is why I will also minor in business and take some education courses to give me a more well-rounded education. That being said, during my years at college I do not want to worry about crushing debt at a time when I should be focused on my education and perfecting my skills. Once I have graduated, I do not want my sole focus to be paying off my college debt. Instead, I would like to focus on performance opportunities that will help me achieve my goal of inspiring others.