

Harper School Student Accepted into Western Carolina University School of Music

Veronica Marie Shaver

Stony Point, NC

Age 17

Senior, Alexander Central High School

Bio

I'm not going to say that as a child band was my passion because it wasn't. I actually sang every chance I got whether that be at church, school, or just the shower. When it was time to decide which I wanted to do everyone thought I would pick chorus but I chose band because I wanted to try something new. I had no idea that it would be my life and my future. 7th grade was when I decided that I wanted to be a band director myself. In 8th grade I met Mr. Randy Ingold and that was when it became my dream. His talent amazed me and I wanted to be just like him as a musician. All through middle school I auditioned for district honor band and was never quite good enough. Sight reading was what hurt my score; it was something that I always let terrify me. It wasn't long until Western Carolina University came into my sights. I saw a youtube video of their marching band and knew I wanted to be a part of it someday. Call me a kid with a big dream but it's what I wanted for my future. Between freshman and sophomore year I took lessons to prepare for district with Mr. Ingold until he got sick again. His death was hard on everyone especially me. Even after his death I wanted to make him proud and continue to excel with my music. My school requires us to do a senior project and I decided that I wanted to do my own band camp and with the help of Mrs. Amy Alexander she connected me with Jonathan Beal and Terry Reid from none other than the Harper School of Music. I interned with them during their summer camp. Once school started back I got the information for my audition at the School of Music at Western Carolina. I asked Mr. Beal to help with my sight reading and my solo so that my audition would go well. With my audition date fast approaching I got more nervous but Mr. Beal was always there to support me and tell me that everything would be alright. He was right; my audition went as well as it could have gone. I found out at the end of the day that all my preparations and lessons were enough and I was accepted in the School of Music. My big dream is finally coming true. Upon graduating from WCU, I hope to fulfill my dream of being a Band Director in the surrounding counties because I believe it is important to remember your roots. Thanks to the Harper School for all of your help, especially to Mr. Beal for getting me where I need to be so that I will be successful in pursuing my dream.

