

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

8th Grade Band Night

By Randy Czuba '25

The Spartan marching band performs for every Spartan football game at pregame for home games and half-time for away games. However, the band will not get members every year if people aren't aware of them to begin with. So, one game per year, the marching band invites the eighth graders from the middle school to join them for one of the home games. This allows the eighth graders to decide if marching band is something they want to be involved in their freshman year of high school.

The two bands perform the National Anthem and the school's Alma Mater together. The eighth graders also get to join the band in the bleachers where they play music while the game is being played, as well as joining the marching band's parade to the stadium that they do from the middle school to every home game.

Both bands meet an hour before the game begins to get to meet each other and to warm up for the show. The eighth graders were also taught how to march for the parade and the new drumline was taught the school's cadence.

For the parade the band played one of their bleacher songs, "Hey Song," instead of their normal parade songs because the eighth grade band was able to practice this song in advance.

I interviewed Mrs. Megan Schneider, the band director for the WVW Middle School, about the event.

When asked how many eighth grade students were participating in the event this year, Mrs. Schneider responded saying "I would guess around 20 this year."

When asked about the

As mentioned earlier, the purpose of eighth grade band night is to introduce the middle schoolers to marching band. Schneider reiterated this purpose, saying "It's about exposure to the marching band and what a great opportunity it can be for students."

In addition to the exposure to the band, eighth grade band night also allows incoming marching band members to enhance their musical skills. "The band practiced the two songs during class, as well as a few others for the parade when in the stands," Schneider said.

Ultimately, the decision to join band is up to the individual students. When asked how many students will join marching band, Schneider responded, "I never know. It's a mystery every year."

Hopefully we'll all see these eighth graders in the marching band next year.



NBA 2K23: A Sign of Hope

By Elvis Castanos '24

As of late, a new game has been taking our young minds on a new journey. "NBA 2k23" has given many fans of the video game franchise a lot of hope for the positive direction we are going toward. In recent years we have seen a decrease in the quality of the games, each game just getting worse than the last. But many fans of the games have admitted that this might be the best one within the previous four years. Could it be the storyline? Could it be cutting-edge graphics? Or is it just the nostalgia of a time that once was?

Let's take it back to "NBA 2K18" released in 2017, one of the worst-rated games in the history of this company. The following year, somehow the next game "NBA 2K19" was rated 1.8/10 on Metacritic's User Reviews. Things started to trend the following year upward with a 2.6/10 User Score, but the common opinion amongst social groups everyone assumed that this was a part of the steady decline of a once glorious

franchise. But this year with a score of 5.3/10 "NBA 2K23" became the first game to have a user score higher than 5 since 2016's release of "NBA 2K17".

"It's a significant improvement over 2K22, and easily the best 2K since 2K16. In a world of sports titles that don't make any real improvements year over year, it's refreshing that 2K has finally added some real changes to MyLeague with Eras (a feature sports gamers in football, basketball, hockey, etc have been wanting for years), and some improvements to MyCareer," said Metacritic User JayhawkerZoomer.

Forbes can even notice the change in their yearly review of the franchise. "The NBA 2K franchise is back and moving in the right direction saying, "After years of stagnant gameplay mechanics and subtle improvements to its franchise mode, this year's game has taken huge, direction-defining steps."

From these reviews, we understand that "NBA2K23" is a step in the right direction and while there are still some flaws that need to be acknowledged, we can now confidently say that this is the best game in this franchise within the last 4-6 years. We also know that a lot of people will be looking toward the next installment of this franchise which should be expected by August 2023.

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