



DANIEL ZEMAN, 10

Sophomore Daniel Zeman explains how he made the holidays special for a local elementary school

One of the most exciting moments of the year for an elementary schooler is opening their presents around the holidays; it becomes extra special when the National Honor Society provides presents and performances for local elementary schoolers. NHS held their annual Santa's Helpers event, with sophomore Daniel Zeman dressed up to look like Santa Claus. The odd thing is that Zeman is actually Jewish and doesn't celebrate Christmas.

Something that inspired Zeman to dress up and play the role of Santa Claus was his view of the mythological man and the appeal of his job. Zeman said, "I think he's a cool guy. He has the elves and they make presents and he decides who's a naughty kid and who's not. He decides to give presents to people. I think that's a cool job. And if that was an available job, I would take it."

Once he accepted the role of Santa Claus, Zeman had to figure out how to get into Santa's mind; how to truly become him. "I recalled all the Santa movies I watched and I got into the spirit. I imagined what a Santa would look like and just kept that in my head and just Santa'd my way through life," said Zeman. "I had to dress up as Santa and basically walk around as Santa and then at the end we had a show and I came out as Santa and I held my belly and I was like, 'Ho, ho, ho, kids!' and that's pretty much the Santa experience."

While he was at Santa's Helpers, Zeman brought joy to many kids, both while he was dressed up and when he was passing out presents. "Seeing them smile, it was really wholesome. They're all so excited and happy about it. The teachers told us that they waited all day for us to come. So, I thought that was really wholesome," said Zeman.

When Zeman told his family about how he was going to dress up as Santa Claus he was met with an unexpected reaction. Zeman said, "My parents found it weird and they were laughing at me, but they thought it was a cool idea. I think it's just bringing happiness and less of a religious thing and more just spreading the joy of Christmas."

The experience of dressing up was one of the only times that Zeman ever celebrated winter holidays outside of his own. "I celebrate Hanukkah. We have about a week where each night we light one candle for each day of the week. So, if it's the second day, we light two candles and three candles and so on and we get together as a family and we light the candles. And then, there's also specialty foods for Hanukkah. It's just a time where you get to be with your family," said Zeman.



CHANYN EIFERTSON, 10
KYAHRA LINGATONG, 12

From local ensemble to Allstate fame: musicians express their journey of their practices and auditions

Learning any skill can be hard; mastering it is even harder. Many skills, hobbies or sports require hours of practice and dedication to truly make it to the top percent, with only a few pushing themselves to take that risk.

In order to get into Capitol Section—a band comprised of good players around the area—or the even more prestigious Allstate—a band comprised of the best players in the state—students had to go through the long process of preparing music and sending in their best take. Trumpet players sophomore Chanyn Eifertsen and senior Kyahra Lingatong did just that.

Surprisingly, according to Lingatong, learning the piece and scales required wasn't the most difficult part about auditions; it was the recordings. "The recordings [were the hardest part] because just finding the time and place to do so is really hard. We have a grandfather clock that my dad's kind of obsessed with so, in the living room sometimes you can just hear it [in the recording]. They might disqualify you for that," said Lingatong. "After you get accepted, they actually do have an in-person audition for what chair placement you get."

Using the same piece as audition material for both bands, Eifertsen managed to apply and make it into both, showcasing the gap in skill level that the two bands hold. "I did an audition [for Capitol Section] that was based off of the Hindemith Trumpet Sonata. It was an excerpt. It was the same one for the Allstate honor band, so I was already practicing it before," said Eifertsen. "At the Capitol Section, I was first chair—I got to play principal chair [and] do a leadership role. But then, at Allstate, I was 11th of the whole thing. So, it was a very high caliber of musicians and it was a lot of rich kids," said Eifertsen.

Lingatong had also prepared music in an attempt to make it into Allstate, but, as she did not make the due date, her application was invalid, turning her to the other band instead. It then would mark her four-year consecutive completion of Capitol Section. "I wanted to do Allstate so bad, but I turned it in late. But, they had Capitol Section at the usual time. So, when I got in for that, I was like, 'Oh, that's great,' because that means because I've been there for four years now," said Lingatong.



DOUGLAS SMITH, 12

10 year lineman reflects on his football career and the recognition he was awarded on his final year

Starting from ball boy as a kid to making his way to winning Lineman of the Year in the conference for football is no easy task. Senior Douglas Smith showed that it was possible, even with the challenges he faced.

Smith was involved in football for the majority of his life. However, he never would have started playing if it weren't for his inspirations. Smith said, "I started playing football when I was eight. My uncle is a coach over at a different high school south of here, Winters High School. I watched him coach and I was the ball boy growing up when I was like five. I just really wanted to play football and be like the older kids, so I ended up joining football."

Due to Smith's dedication to his sport, he was in the running for Lineman of the Year for our league. "The coaches get together when they're choosing the All League guys like they do for other sports. Coaches will put in their guys that they think deserve it for whatever award it is and then the coaches within the league will vote on it. And I just so happened to be chosen," said Smith.

Smith wasn't aware about the nomination from his coach. So, when he heard the news, at a football breakfast the team had to celebrate Thanksgiving, Smith was shocked. "It was after morning practice, it was the day before our championship. One of my friends [senior] Dylan [Perrault] came up to me and he's like, 'Oh, you won Lineman of the Year'. I thought they were pulling a prank on me or something. I thought it was the team Lineman of the Year. I was like, 'Okay, that makes sense,' but it was conference, so I was actually really surprised that I got that," Smith said.

Throughout the seasons he played for the team, Smith created many memories. "I think my favorite memory was junior year when we beat Placer, we were the eighth seed, they were the first seed," said Smith. "We came into their school and they had posters and stuff up about how they were having a spirit week next week and they were already prepared to whoop us. Then, we came in and beat them. So, it was pretty fun to beat them because of how cocky they were coming into it."

Smith enjoyed the many years being involved with the football program, but had some choices to make regarding his future. "I don't know if I'll do football or not, I'm trying to keep my options open. I might just do academics. There are some D3s I could go play for. Nothing huge, or I could stop playing football and just relax for a few years. Woodcreek football was a great experience for me; I had a great four years. Best time of my life and if anybody is trying to play football, I'd recommend it," said Smith.



ALESSANDRA SAVORELLI, 12

Exchange student from Italy shares her experience from her year abroad

Leaving her whole family behind to live with someone she had never met before is no small feat. Senior Alessandra Savorelli embarked on her exchange year to a foreign place she had no choice of picking.

Savorelli flew from Ravenna, Italy to Roseville, California in order to start the beginning of her exchange year. She was introduced to the idea of an exchange year by her dad and decided to look into it. "About two years ago. My dad was like, 'Do you want to just try and live in another country for some months?' and then I just started looking for agencies that I could go with. We had to fill in a lot of papers about us and about our life in general, about school and all of that," said Savorelli.

With moving to a completely different country, Savorelli experienced some fears. While she knew some English it was still scary, especially knowing she would have to make new friends in a new language. "I was just really afraid of the language and in general making new friends. Because I'm a really shy kind of person, so it was really hard even in my language," Savorelli said.

When signing up for Savorelli's exchange program she didn't know where or with whom she would be placed. She received the text that told her where she would be assigned. "I couldn't believe it because I always wanted to come to California. Then I started texting my host family and from there we just kind of kicked it off," said Savorelli.

The move wasn't as difficult as she had expected as Savorelli was actually used to leaving her family and going on trips. Savorelli said, "It wasn't really hard actually, because I have a really good relationship with my family. Since I was a kid, I always spent like a good week away from my family every year, so it was fine. It was sad, but at the same time, it's fine."