



MOON AREA HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

March 11, 2019

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter of recommendation is written in support of Miss Isabella Gayoso, who is an applicant for the Elite 100 Scholarship. I have had the pleasure of teaching Isabella for four years as Director of Bands at Moon Area High School. Isabella has been a performing flautist of the Marching, and Concert Bands at Moon Area High School. During Isabella's sophomore year, she auditioned and was won a seat in the Moon Area High School Symphonic Band. The Symphonic Band is MAHS top performing instrumental music ensemble. The Symphonic Band performs a wide variety of concerts and adjudications around the Pittsburgh area as well as nationally. Highlights of the Symphonic Band's performance resume include, two-time featured performers for the Pennsylvania Music Educators State Conference, featured performers for U.S. Presidents, Foreign Diplomats, as well as State and local government leaders.

Isabella is a strong and important member of the Symphonic Band as well as the entire instrumental music department. Isabella has performed with the several of the instrumental groups at MAHS, including the high school flute ensemble, the Pit Orchestra for the spring musical production, as well as the jazz ensembles, on tenor saxophone. She has also participated in the Western Allegheny County Area Honors Band. Membership to all of the ensembles at MAHS requires a large amount of outside and after school practice/rehearsal to perform at the level, which is expected.

Isabella's leadership abilities and dedication within the bands has placed her in the upper echelon of students within Moon Area School District. She is currently the flute section leader for marching band and has performed extremely well in this role, thus far. Isabella has helped the incoming band freshman with transitioning to high school, and the high school music department, offering advice on what to expect and what is expected as a band member. While managing her peers was not always easy for Isabella, she learned that all students are not as dedicated as she is to music or band. She overcame these obstacles and learned to deal with all types of learners and styles of people through relating and being a good listener instead of always "barking" out orders.

Isabella's personality and the ability to relate to all types of people make her an outstanding leader. Her resourcefulness in the classroom as well as outside provides her with a solid platform for success in any arena in which she may explore. I offer my recommendation for Isabella Gayoso to be considered for the Elite 100 Scholarship. I welcome any further discussion on her behalf.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Barthen
Director of Bands
Moon Area High School