

When I look at myself in the mirror I see a little girl who has a strong passion for music; that same little girl sings only because she loves it and is happy when she does. I have learned that the only way you can be happy doing what you love is when everyone around you is showing their support. At Henry B. DuPont Middle School there is one teacher who is always supporting me and presenting more opportunities when I could ever imagine. This teacher is more of a friend and his name is Mr. Gary Smith. I admire and thank Mr. Smith for so many reasons that I don't think even he knows.

Mr. Smith has taught me the most important piece of knowledge in life, that you should never be afraid to make a mistake. He taught me that no one is perfect and that not only in signing, but you should want to make mistakes so you always have something to improve on. A second life lesson Mr. Smith has taught me is that you should never give up no matter what. During choir I sometimes make mistakes and sing softer than I usually would, but he has showed me that if you mess up you have to get right up and come back stronger and more powerful than you ever did before. Mr. Smith has taught me so many techniques and skills, but making mistakes and never giving up have changed my life.

I am a seventh grader at H.B. and couldn't be happier with the two years I have been in choir with Mr. Smith as my conductor. I have to thank him for always giving me opportunities to continue my dreams and do what I love. He has showed me how to always be myself especially when I sing and has taught me many music skills like sight reading that will stay with me for a long time after middle school. Mr. Smith has helped me discover a talent I never thought I had and has supported my talent as well as improve it. In sixth grade I used to be scared of singing in front of people and now one year later I'm not because he has taught me that the worst thing people can do is not like your voice.

I am both very excited but sad about moving into eighth grade. First off next year will be my third year working with Mr. Smith, but unfortunately my last as well. I appreciate all the doors he has opened up to me and how much support he has showed me. I have learned life lessons that will stay with me forever and will always help me. Mr. Smith is by far my favorite teacher. I admire, appreciate, and thank him.