

Dear Mr. Swasey,

I just want to talk about my time playing guitar. I remember first starting in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, we were just learning the basics nothing special and learned maybe a couple songs. The moment I played my first song I knew this was what I want to do and I wanted to learn harder music and play the guitar. During my 6<sup>th</sup> grade year, we were doing school virtually. I remember you playing songs you knew and I just remember thinking to myself, "One day I am going to be able to play guitar just like him." Ever since then, I made it a goal to play like you. The next year (7<sup>th</sup> grade) I was put in the Non varsity guitar group. This year I made it my goal to play really well and be more dedicated. I began to start playing "harder" music and realized I want a challenge. Lastly my 8<sup>th</sup> grade year, I was put into the advanced guitar group. This year I was faced with many challenges. Despite my excitement to be a part of this group, I was very doubtful of myself being able to make it and play this music. Even though I was doubtful I decided to still give it a try and see what happens. Learning my first song was not easy at all, I saw notes I didn't know, I had to learn how to count the beat and etc. Over time I was getting the hang of things and began to play the music like nothing. Just when I start to get the hang of things, we got offered to be apart of something big and perform with ACG. When I heard this news I was so excited because I know how much of a privilage this is. As we were learning the music that's when I knew this isn't our normal music we play

this is really long and kinda challenging, but I was too determined to give up. I spent hours and hours making sure it was perfect. When we were told we would play with tons of other guitarists and meet tons of other people I was so excited because I was going to be surrounded by people who are just as passionate about guitar as I am. Ever since we worked with ACG I haven't been able to get that out of my head. The members were so sweet, the music they play is so beautiful and majestic, the stage was huge, just everything about that experience was so wonderful. The moment I stepped foot on that stage I knew this is the life I want, I love being on a stage and performing. When we started to play and everyone came together the music we were producing was so beautiful. Ever since that experience I now want to be apart of ACG, only problems I'm facing is how can I be apart of it? and what do I/can I do to be on that path to join ACG?. If you have any advice on what I can do to reach this goal please let me know. goal.

From: Aryanna Mendoza  
(8<sup>th</sup> grade)