

My name is Rebecca Klanchesser, and I attended Newington Public School from Kindergarten through sixth grade. At Newington Public School, there were many great experiences and learning opportunities that I took part of, leaving me happy to say I attended. From my experience at Newington, the school has left only positive impacts on me such as stepping up as a leader, looking out for those around me and sticking close to the ones that mean the most to me. While there, I also gained some great memories with friends such as reading groups with Mrs. Brown. In reading groups, each student was partnered up with another student and both students could choose a book to read. One book that stuck out for me was *Ivy and Bean*, by Annie Barrows. A tom-boy girl, not afraid of anything, and a girly-girl with a love for magic. After my partner and I read the whole series, my love for reading started. Even with a busy schedule now, I still try to grab a book or read a newspaper article to continue my reading skills.

I have always been a good student, getting my work done on time and participating in extracurricular activities throughout my middle school and high school years, but one activity that stuck with me through those six years at Newington was band. When I started band in third grade, I chose the flute because I thought that it was a graceful instrument and that it would be easy to learn. As one of the hardest instruments to first learn, I had a challenge set up for myself, but I had Ms. Leach there to guide me through the process. Now, after ten years of playing flute, I am happy to say how committed I am to the band program at Portsmouth High School.

After Newington graduation I attended Portsmouth Middle School for seventh through eighth grade, and in both years I played softball for the school team and was a lead flute in the band, participating in both the flute and woodwind ensembles. But middle school band wasn't it for me. I wanted to reach higher. I graduated eighth grade and began my freshman year at Portsmouth High School. Before the school year even started, I was already on campus for a week of eight hour days for band camp. Band Camp was by far, one of the most rigorous and intense experiences that I had at Portsmouth High School. With a World Champion Percussion Ensemble and a five-time Gold Medal Marching Band, I am proud to say that I was a member as a flute and piccolo player, as well as a section leader for the Flute section two years in a row.

But there was more outside of band that I participated in at the high school. I played softball for the school all four years, making Varsity my Junior and Senior year, and I have also been really active with architecture at the high school. With plans of attending Wentworth Institute of Technology next year as an architecture major, I am happy to say that I am also a National Technical Honor Society member for Architectural and Engineering. All three schools have helped prepare me for the next step immensely, but Newington was the only school to really influence students to stick close to those around your persona.

If chosen to be the Fox Point Road Race NPS alumni, I will submit a print that I made in my senior year of high school of three houseplants that I own. I'd choose this print because I value my time outside either with others or by myself, and by caring for two cacti and a spider plant on my own, it proves to myself that I can be a responsible person and can care for those around me. That I can care for my community.