

# Students Thrive Via BMHS Fine Arts Programs

For Memorial High School Seniors August Braatz and Isiac Pulliam fine arts offerings at their school are a true passion and escape. Both have unique talents that have earned them recognition for doing the things they love.

For August, a trombone player, the band and jazz orchestra have been a passion and inspiration for him. Last school year, at the encouragement of family and friends, August auditioned for and accepted to be part of the National Youth Orchestra Jazz Ensemble. He says that his acceptance was a surprise due to the competitive process and quality of other candidates. August says this was a once in a lifetime opportunity to be able to perform in 5 different European cities as a high school student. They performed in London, England; Amsterdam, Netherlands; Edinburgh, Scotland; as well as in Castle, and Berlin, Germany.

According to August, fellow students and instructors were a huge help, and challenged him to become a better musician. That trip helped him learn more about himself as both a person and musician. August aspires to enroll at a conservatory for music next fall and is currently applying for these schools. He also wants to be a professional musician and eventually be a music professor at the university level as well as clinic high school students on the side. According to his orchestra teacher, Mr. Christopher Behrens, August is a very rare talent but also someone who has put in a considerable amount of time and effort to get to his current skill level of performing. You can see August and his fellow Memorial High School Band and Jazz Band groups play at various venues around Beloit. Please check the Memorial High School Website for more information on performances.

Isiac Pulliam says that art is a form of escape and something he does to relax. Just recently he was named runner up in the Wisconsin Regional Arts Program in Madison for his charcoal sketch titled "Aime". This sketch was done last school year on one of his former classmates who recently graduated from BMHS. Isiac's teacher, Ms. Elizabeth Carpenter, says that Isiac has an extremely good eye for art and possesses a unique talent for detail. Unlike August, Isiac does not look to use art as his future means of employment. In fact, he plans on attending the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee next school year and studying architecture. However, Isiac does plan on keeping his art background and doing this as a hobby the rest of his life.

August and Isiac are two examples of the many students in the School District of Beloit using fine arts to motivate and inspire themselves to be the best they can.