

Ever since Dallas Brass were in town last Wednesday, my e-mail in-box has been full of praise from the community and my students are completely fired up (some even want to purchase piccolo trumpets, and I had to show them how to do multiphonics on their brass instruments!) I appreciate what you all do, and the following responses from community members, teachers, parents, and especially the students say it all. Please share them with the members of the Dallas Brass!

COMMUNITY RESPONSES:

*I just wanted to let you know that I thought that the performance with the Dallas Brass in Caro was WONDERFUL! What is really special is that these men took the time to spend the day with our children. Hayden didn't want to go to his regularly scheduled Wednesday evening activity. He asked to come to the concert instead because he saw them at the Schall Elementary School. I'm guessing that after this experience another band student will be coming your way in a couple of years. Thank you for expending the effort to bring the Dallas Brass to Caro. -A Parent

*Congratulations, Rachel, on an outstanding turnout and performance last night. It was totally awesome. While they were playing the music from The Mission, I felt like my soul was being fed! What a great opportunity for our students and community. When I first saw how many people were there, I said to the person sitting next to me that this community is starved for culture and they don't even know it. Thank you for putting all that effort into bringing the Dallas Brass to Caro. Now, when can we bring them back? -A High School Teacher

*AWESOME!! AWESOME!! AWESOME!! I just had to email you to thank you for putting this concert together. What a wonderful experience! The 7th & 8th graders did an amazing job on "Star Wars" and the High School band was incredible. You must be very proud of each and every one of

them. The Dallas Brass members were beyond belief! Music has always been an important part of my life, even though I can't play an instrument or sing a single note in key; so I hope tonight inspired your students to keep practicing and working hard. The sky's the limit! Thanks for a great night. -Parent

* I just had to let you know how much my husband and I enjoyed the concert last night. It was such a treat hearing such a wonderful group of musicians here in Caro. Thank you for arranging this concert.

I especially enjoyed hearing how enthused the band students were about the music! It was very clear that they were all having a wonderful time listening to and watching the "Dallas Brass". I was sitting with a former student of mine, now a 6th grade band student, who had been at the afternoon clinic. She was so excited about the afternoon program that she had dragged her mother out of the house to hear the evening concert: mother had other plans for the evening, but the daughter insisted that she see the group. Her mother was enthralled with the group and the experience!! Thank you for that! As former band parents, we love seeing children enjoying music. -Community Member & retired teacher

*How wonderful to be in the presence of the Dallas Brass!!!! The evening's performance was fantastic. You are bringing such class and quality to our music department. Thank you. I do realize it would be much easier not to do these things, but what an impression they make on our students. Very possibly, lives were forever changed yesterday!!! Very cool. Thank you. -Middle School Teacher

*I just wanted to tell you thank you for such an enjoyable evening of music with your bands and the Dallas Brass Group. It was a wonderful concert and the kids really enjoyed it as you can tell. The group had built quite a rapport with your students and it's not a wonder you remembered them so

well from your first meeting. -Community Member

STUDENT RESPONSES:

My Favorite Part of having the Dallas Brass come to Caro was...

- Being able to meet people who are able to play instruments with such passion!
- Hearing them play, it was inspiring and it looked effortless.
- Practicing with them.
- The drum solo in Sing, Sing, Sing.
- Multiphonics.
- The piccolo trumpet.
- Listening to their amazing music, because it inspires me to keep playing.

Something I learned from the Dallas Brass was...

- I learned how the instruments should sound!
- You can succeed in anything with practice, determination, and fun!
- Professionals practice too.
- You can do what you love for a job.
- Superior musicians are formed from determination and lots of practice.
- To play loud with good tone.
- Different names of composers and pieces.
- With enough practice, anybody can succeed in what they desire.
- How to bow.
- Always bring a pencil.
- To watch the director.
- Use a lot of air for a better sound.
- If you try hard enough, you can accomplish anything.
- You can tongue a lot of notes in a quarter of a measure!
- I learned as a band we NEED to play together and sound full without sounding bad, and if the Dallas Brass can, we can!
- Music sticks with you your entire life.
- Keep doing band because it's fun and exciting.

-Never to give up.

I'd like to tell the Dallas Brass...

-The Dallas Brass changed my whole view of brass instruments.

-People from every age group really enjoyed the concert.

-Please come back and visit. I plan on going into music education and then be able to teach/direct a band and I want to one day have you there so my students can have the experience of a lifetime like I got to as well.

(HS student)

-Many thanks for coming. The concert was not what I expected – it was so much better! Thank you for the clinic.

-Thanks for coming, because not many kids knew the Dallas Brass even existed and might never have gotten a chance to be a part of the Dallas Brass experience.

-I appreciate you all coming and maybe you can come again when I'm a band teacher. (Middle School student)

-Please keep doing what you are doing, keep helping kids all around the world play their instruments.

As a band director, I try to measure my success in terms of significance - the significant difference our lives can make in the lives of others. This significance often doesn't show up in long resumes or trophies, but it's found in the hearts and lives of those we've come across who are in some way better because of the way we lived. I am grateful the Dallas Brass exemplified that type of significance and success last Wednesday in Caro! Thank you for reminding me again why being a musician and band director is such a fulfilling job.

Musically yours,

Rachel McGiness
Director of Bands
Caro Community Schools