**Marching Band is a family of people who get to enjoy an activity pretty much every day for the first half of the school year and just sort of even though we are misunderstood by the rest of the school we all understand what we are doing and each other and it's a lot of fun.**

Hannah Grindstaff is a sophomore at Carmel High School who is a baritone in the Marching Greyhounds the schools marching band.

What exactly is a baritone? That is what I asked…

**So marching baritone is like a version of baritone/euphonium that we would play in concert band like are class that you can carry without having to put it on your leg or anything so you can hold it free in front of you with your hands in front of your face so you can play and march so it's obviously a brass instrument and then in concert band you would either play euphonium or you would play euphonium which has four valves or four keys that you would push down and then in concert in marching band instead of just the Euphonium there are two different kinds of marching baritone instruments one is called marching baritone it has three valves or buttons and the marching euphonium doesn't have the four it is just a bigger version of the Marching Baritone.**

The Marching Greyhounds just happen to be two times in a row champions at this point

**So, that was the second year in a row so were the two-year holder's right now until Grand Nationals this Winter. But it was kind of like it’s a big deal because there’s, I don't even know well over I don01't even know how many bands come in at the beginning So there is Prelims Semi Finals and finals and by the time you get down to finals enough bands have been cut that there is only 12 bands and it is well over 100 bands for prelims. So we are one of the 12 bands in finals and this isn't good but it's pretty much a given at Carmel to be in finals because we just work hard every year and every band works just as hard as we do but we just have some extra things that we always get like some certain instructors and we have amazing support from our community but anyway so we won all three captions which are visual, music and general effect which is just over all best performance, we won all three which is first time in school history and we got so they announced second which was a school in Oklahoma called Broken Arrow and we all are hearts just stopped. Like when the announced broken arrow and we all hold hands so like you feel everyone else's hand on yours and everyone is just squeezing as hard as they can and it's just. It is a special feeling because it is just that family all just connected and it has, we just did something over the course of six months that will just leave an impact on us and on the school.**

With being a two time in a row Grand Nationals winner a lot of work is put in.

**So during the school year are weekly practice schedule is Monday we have no practice. Tuesdays and Wednesdays every single week we have 6:45 to 7:35 we have morning practice which is just music. Then have 3:45 we do outside or marching or practicing are show. On Thursdays, we have practice 6-9 and that is outside plus the morning practice if it is just a normal practice day it's the same as Tuesdays and Wednesday. If there is a football game we are usually there from 6:45 am until whenever the game is over and then on Saturdays a regular practice day is 9-6, so 9am to 6pm and then if it is a competition day we are there from anywhere from 7am or 9am to maybe 2am the latest on Sundays usually it like are Grand Nationals which is are final competition we get home around 4am or we get back to the school around 4am so by the end of the season last year we had practiced 493 hours. That are grand total last year.**

 **A typical practice is a lot of water, a lot of sweat, and a lot of crying but no we just do a bunch of fundamentals so we will just play a bunch of whole notes and half notes and chunks of our shows just before in these arc, these musical arcs like you would in concert band just standing up and then we switch to our visual fundamentals or fundies I guess and that is just basic marching technique you know forwards backwards, wide’s which is marching forward with part of your body turned 90 degrees which is hard. So you will do forwards and backwards slides and you will do a thing called a schrock which one of our anatomy teachers here at Carmel is one of our main visual instructors and he has this thing called the schrock and its how we walk confidently as a Carmel Band. And it's just a really cool exercise to just put confidence into us during practice. So that's what a normal practice is made up of and stuff.**

The members of the marching band also have a distinct ideas about what it mean to be apart of the Marching Band

**Its kind of a family who just like I said earlier understand everything about each other and what you're doing everyday and we can just always be there for each other and know exactly what we are doing is just a amazing ending at the end of the season every year.**

**It's a great way to have friends in high school and just to have something extra that you are doing and it's just a lot of fun and you just always remember because it looks great on college applications and it will also help you with things you learn in marching band at Carmel.**

Hannah also could tell us about her favorite performance without even a little bit of doubt

**Lucas Oil at Grand Nat’s was without a doubt the best performance that we have all year because of course the Homecoming game is amazing because you know its a school, its huge Lucas Oil is just different. It’s a whole other level of marching band and it's just a whole other level of just feeling, and when you are marching and when you win so it was a big deal. So like we went to California last year and we won there as well because California band work so hard and they are amazing and so to win in Lucas Oil so close to our school and just to perform there is just amazing and before the show we just do all these things you just, you just bond as a section before you perform which just brings the performance so much further and helps you so much better because you are connected and Lucas Oil just makes us care just that much more and pushes us just that much more.**

**It's a lot of, it’s their biggest audience you have all year at Grand Nat’s and its well the biggest feeling you will ever have because Lucas Oil is huge. Like I don't know how many people go to football games there but its huge and it just makes us sound amazing are music just expands and echoes everywhere into every corner and it just feels so great to perform there and so just because it's just big and its huge and it sounds amazing.**

The Marching Greyhounds put in a