Hicksville Congress of Teachers Elaine Milani Memorial Scholarship

by Christopher Kim

My previous orchestra teacher, Ms. Noll, had a heartwarming final concert before retiring that sparked my interest in becoming a music teacher. School alumni, close friends, and current students all coordinated to play a farewell song for her. We played the song "Hey Jude," her favorite song, but the lyrics were changed to "Hey Noll" to fit her better. Everyone at the concert felt a flood of emotions because of Ms. Noll. Everyone realized how much they were going to miss their favorite orchestra teacher.

To be someone that can impact people in a long-lasting way is something I hope to achieve as a teacher. She drove me to want to pursue music education. She had such a welcoming aura of kindness and I wish to radiate the same thing to my future students. Every student she had in her class genuinely enjoyed her presence in the classroom. Even if a student didn't have much interest in playing their instrument, they still tried because Ms. Noll had so much positive energy that it was hard to defy her. People like her are the very reason I am motivated to become a teacher. If I were to acquire a job with the mindset of Ms. Noll, it wouldn't feel like work to me. It would be like me going back to school and enjoying what I love. The very thought that I could be someone who might open up the eyes of eager, naive students, is almost euphoric. I strive to become an even better teacher than Ms. Noll ever was, which in reality may never be attainable. However, it sure is a thought that will always push me to persevere and try my best, no matter what the circumstances.