

# Sarah O'Donnell

## Personal Statement

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From the choir room to the classroom, I've always believed that everyone has a unique song to sing—a lesson I've inherited from a lineage of educators. I suppose you could say that the essence of teaching courses through my veins. Though my grades might not suggest that I'm a prodigy in any subject, I pride myself on having a balanced perspective when it comes to academics. Life is not just about equations or historical dates; it's about learning to be a good human being.

In my pursuit to be well-rounded, I've taken the challenge of enrolling in Honors classes, not to compete with others but to push myself to see what I am capable of achieving. Sometimes that has led to surprising moments of clarity, like realizing how mathematical patterns can be like a well-composed melody or how the nuances of language in literature can be as poignant as a solo in choir.

Speaking of choir, it's my other classroom. Here, I learn lessons beyond musical notation. When we harmonize, each of us has a part that contributes to the whole, yet it's vital to listen to others so that the entire piece comes together. I remember one day when we were practicing for our winter concert. We were stumbling through a complex section, and tensions were running high. In that moment, I took a step back and encouraged everyone to breathe. We started again, this time listening to one another, and finally, the harmony clicked. It was an epiphany for me—patience and collaboration could solve problems that individual brilliance could not.

Outside school, my curiosity for different perspectives takes form in collecting vintage postcards. Each card holds a story, a snapshot of a time and culture different from my own. This hobby has helped me realize the importance of remembering and respecting our collective past, a value that I hold dear.

I also try to practice kindness by volunteering at local animal shelters. It's not always easy work, but the patience I've learned from my family and the music I hear in the simple 'thank you' meows or tail wags are worth every moment.

In essence, my life's song is still being composed, but I am committed to making it one of kindness, curiosity, and patience, in tune with the values I hold dear. I hope to continue this journey at your esteemed institution, not just to become more educated but to become a better person.