My first experience in making music came in third grade. That year during music class, everyone was taught to play the recorder. While I was not very good, it sparked my interests in both creating and listening to music. Back then, the only options I had for music listening was an easily pocketable mp3 player by sandisk with only 4 gb of storage. However, I filled that mp3 player with hours of music from my dad’s cd collection and loved listening to it in my free time. In fourth grade, I was given the opportunity to learn guitar through the school, and it became my new favorite instrument to play. In fifth grade, I joined the school band and learned my third instrument, clarinet. I found it rather easy to pick up, as I already knew a recorder, and playing notes was similar, only with the added variable of a reed. I continued to expand my knowledge of music throughout upper elementary and middle school, learning a little harmonica and piano. I also found myself listening to new kinds of music: when I was young, I only had access to the classic rock that my parents had in mp3 form, but once I got my first phone, I started listening to new genres, from pop to jazz, classical to metal. I also learned how to play these styles and bought myself an electric guitar and a wooden clarinet. This allowed me to create even more music, and I continued to learn. Throughout high school, I have continued learning about music, and even have ventured into writing my own. Music has shaped my life by giving me a creative output, as well as a focal point to re-center myself when I’m feeling stressed or anxious.