

Maggie Tuttle
Music

The day I was accepted into the PATHS Music program was the proudest moment of my high school career. It seems as though being accepted was the beginning of my life as a musician. With the help from my teacher, Ms. Stubbs, my dreams and aspirations slowly started to fall into place.

Ms. Stubbs prepared me for many auditions starting with my first audition for South Portland High School's musical. I landed a leading role which without my experience at PATHS, I wouldn't have been prepared for. Also at PATHS I was able to visit colleges. Our college visitation to Boston was the trip that changed my life. That was the day I visited Berklee College of music. Up until that point I never wanted to go into college. I left Berklee feeling that attending there to continue my studies was a necessity not just a want. Ms. Stubbs told me to follow my dreams.

That was the year (2009) that I graduated high school. The following year I decided to come back to PATHS. However, since I had already graduated from high school I had to go through Portland Adult Education. I had to pay tuition to come back PATHS but it was the best decision of my life.

This year Ms. Stubbs did so much for me. She helped me in many ways and my dreams fell into place. She took the time between the morning and afternoon sessions to give me voice lessons. It made me feel so good that someone actually believed in me. In these lessons she prepared me for my Berklee audition. It was a lot of hard work. I never knew how much you could really sweat while singing. But, practicing in that little piano room showed me more than you can imagine.

I'm glad I have gotten the opportunity to thank her publicly and show her how much she means to me. She is my other mother and my mentor. I love her with my whole heart. Without her help I would not have been accepted to the college of my dreams. Or have the knowledge of music that I do now. I would also like to thank PATHS for having a program like this and for hiring Victoria Stubbs. PATHS completely changed my ideas of college and brought me the strength to carry out my desires. Thank you so much.