Story by Amy Casey

Mr. Kevin Pham was born and raised in Hays, Kansas. He describes himself as an easy-going, fair, and loud person. Mr. Pham began his musical journey in the sixth grade. He started doing band because it was something he could do with his friends. Mr. Pham then realized what band was truly about and became involved in anyway he possibly could. Just like any other younger sibling that wants to take after their older siblings, Mr. Pham wanted to be a part of band because his brother was in it. Mr. Pham also states that, “But what it really comes down to is being exposed to what it means to be in band. I had no idea what you could do with music, but after being in the program for a few years, you realize that it is more than just pushing buttons or hitting things. It meant giving more of yourself to create something that explains those indescribable feelings. Because let's be honest, what would life be like without any kind of music?” The music he played is something he will never forget. He continued to play band in high school. In college, he was able to be apart of marching band, concert band, and different ensembles. Mr. Pham mainly plays percussion, but is able to play all woodwinds and brass.

He went to college at Fort Hays University and enjoyed any classes with his music friends. What he enjoyed most about being in college was being surrounded by people of the same interests and being in the music program. When Mr. Pham started college he had no idea what he wanted to become, so he explored different options and eventually two years later went into music because he missed it too much. After college he student taught in Russell under the band director Mrs. Renetta Dawson. When he graduated college this past year, he chose to teach at Plainville because he knew the band program was beginning to come back up and he wanted to take it to the next level.

Here is some extra information about Mr. Pham. One of the people Mr. Pham was influenced by was Craig Manteuffel. Mr. Manteuffel influenced Mr. Pham by always knowing what he was doing and getting his job done. Mr. Pham has an aunt that is also in teaching. She is an elementary music teacher. Mr. Pham will be taking the band students to the Kansas State Fair on either the 14th, 15th, or 16th of September. He has no other trips planned for the band set in stone right now, but if the students work hard there is a chance of a trip. This year Mr. Pham would like for his students to learn music is for life. He would also like for the students to learn that you have to work at being great, it is not something that just happens overnight. He expects the band to grow and learn together as a community. To do this they have to work together as a team, or they will not make any progress. One of the hardest parts of teaching this year for him will be learning everyone’s names. Being asked if there was anything he could change about his job, Mr. Pham said he would not change a thing because he loves what he does. His main goals as a teacher this year is to not get fired and for his students to learn something!



