

PARENT PERSPECTIVES

Matt Villa is a Senior at Prestonwood Christian Academy in Plano, Texas and has been an active member of the TX FPSP for 7 years. He is an accomplished musician whose music has been a part of the IC topic debuts for the last two years. Matt has an intelligent and creative mind that he looks forward to using in both the artistic and STEM-related fields in the future. (Lisa Quintana)



Making Music Through FPS!



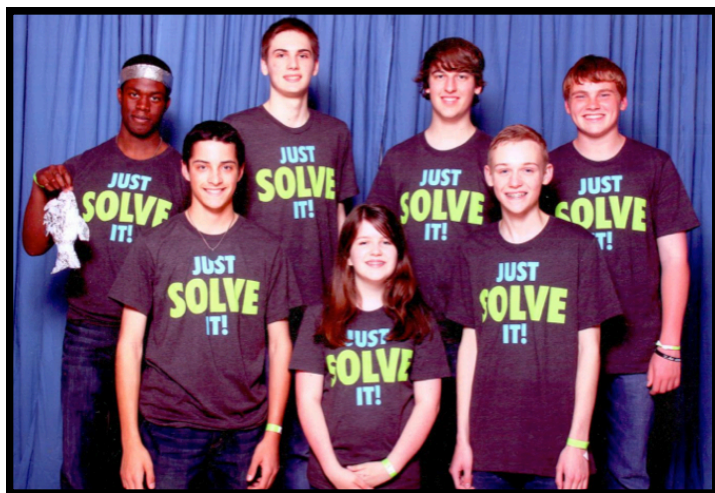
I still remember the first time I was introduced to FPS. The details are fuzzy, but it was 6th grade, and I was in my English class. My teacher walked in, describing a new competition in which my friends and I would be able to use our imagination to actually discover new ideas and plans that could potentially affect the future. I loved it!

Since then, I've competed each year on teams with people from extremely close friends to people who became friends over the competition season. I didn't make the State Bowl the first couple years, but in 8th grade, my team finally made it. From there, I've been to Austin the last four years, either with a team or as an alternate.

One of my favorite moments occurred when I was an alternate in 2014 at the State Bowl. I was paired with three other people I had never met before. As we sat down, we decided at that moment to just have fun with the competition - to think of extremely creative and crazy ideas that could work. For the whole weekend after that morning, I would talk to them whenever I would see them around the hotel, and by Sunday morning, we discovered we had placed second.

Beyond just the experiences that FPS has brought me, it also has taught me a new way to think. I approach problems differently than other people, thanks to FPS. I can logically go through the steps in my head to cement the scenario, think of solutions, and weigh them out.

What I do outside of school is write, perform, and record music. I play about ten instruments, and I am currently completing my second full-length album for my solo project State 28. Every day in the studio, I have to use FPS skills in order to fix the vast amount of problems that come with writing and recording music, learning how to produce, and releasing an awesome song. I've even recorded two songs for FPS videos using the techniques I've used from FPS! FPS has even helped me achieve a dream of mine to go to Vanderbilt University this upcoming fall. Aside from the main-Common App essay, I was only able to send in one additional essay, specifically for Vanderbilt. The prompt asked me to write about the most important academic activity I participate in, and I wrote about Future Problem Solvers and all that it's done for me to achieve my goals. And now I get to write an article summarizing how FPS helped me get to this point in my life. I owe a lot to the lessons I have learned from my high school FPS teacher, Mrs. Lichty, while participating in FPS. I know that as I move on to college, FPS will continue to help me in my engineering studies and my passion for creating music. If it's done this much in the last four years, how much more may it do in the next four?



Matt (3rd from the left on back row) with his Presentation of Action Plan team at State Bowl 2015.

My music can be found on iTunes here: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/run-away-single/id1085219174>

and here: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/perpendicular-lines/id1020758466>

Or on Youtube here: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC15HwOTCcx1XA6rh_3ktehQ/videos

What has FPS done for you? Our April/May newsletter is our annual testimonial edition. We are seeking testimonials from parents, coaches, students and alumni! Please submit your testimonial to dwoyth@gmail.com or april@fpspi.org by the submission deadline of April 8, 2016. What is **YOUR** FPS music?

"Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything!" ~Plato~