



**MISSOURI BANDMASTERS ASSOCIATION**

# **BUILDING BETTER BANDS**

Oct. 2025 | Vol. 28

## **“Best Band Moment of the Season”**

We want to celebrate the amazing moments happening in Missouri band programs this fall! Submit your favorite photo that captures the spirit, energy, and heart of your band during the fall 2025 season.

Your photo could showcase a powerful performance, a behind-the-scenes rehearsal moment, a parade snapshot, or even a fun candid that shows the friendships and joy that make band special.

<https://bit.ly/MBABestMoment>

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

#### **All-State Band Registration Window**

November 4-25, 2025

#### **All-State Band Auditions**

December 6, 2025

#### **All-State Paperwork Due**

December 16, 2025

#### **All-State Payments Due**

January 13, 2026

#### **All-State Band/MMEA**

January 28-31, 2026

#### **MBA Summer Convention**

June 14-17, 2026

## **The Unsung Heroes: Band Parents and Boosters**

As the marching season starts to wind down throughout the state, it's the perfect time to recognize the people behind the scenes who make it all possible — our band parents and booster organizations. From early-morning pit crews to uniform washing, concession stand shifts, and last-minute snack runs, these volunteers keep our programs running with endless dedication. Their impact reaches far beyond logistics. Parents build community, model service for students, and create an environment where young musicians feel supported and valued. Many directors across Missouri share stories of parents who go the extra mile — designing props, fundraising for instruments, or simply showing up with encouragement when it's needed most.

As we move into concert season, take a moment to say thank you. A small gesture — a recognition at rehearsal, a social media post, or a letter from students — reminds our boosters that their hard work doesn't go unnoticed. Our programs shine brighter because of them.

### **FREE RESOURCE**

Many band directors find themselves teaching Music Appreciation alongside their ensembles — and it can be tough to find engaging materials. A great free resource to explore is [TeachRock.org](https://www.teachrock.org), which offers ready-to-use lessons connecting music history, culture, and creativity. If you're looking for more ideas or classroom-tested resources, reach out to Sarah Sacco at [ssacco@avabears.net](mailto:ssacco@avabears.net) — she's happy to share materials and support!

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### PASSING THE BATON: MENTORSHIP IN MISSOURI BANDROOMS

Every successful band director can name a mentor who helped shape their path. Whether it's a veteran director offering guidance to a first-year teacher, or colleagues sharing rehearsal strategies at district meetings, these relationships sustain our profession. Experienced educators pass along not only musical wisdom but also lessons in patience, resilience, and balance. New directors teach us "old dogs" new tricks as we have to evolve with the ever changing world of music education.

As we enter the busy fall-to-winter transition, take time to reach out — either to thank the mentors who helped you, or to check in on someone just starting their journey. Every conversation strengthens the network that builds better bands in Missouri.

### MBA Exhibitors and Sponsors Contact Information

#### MBA OFFICERS

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