



Missouri Bandmasters Association

## **BUTCH ANTAL SERVICE AWARD 2023**

---

This year's recipient of the Butch Antal Service Award has been a supporter of the Missouri Bandmasters Association since the inception of the first MBA All-State band in January 1977. Beginning in December 1976, David H. Hickman High School in Columbia, MO has hosted the All-State Band auditions. On the first Saturday of December, for 47 years, Columbia Hickman faculty, students, and staff have had their personal space invaded by thousands of student musicians and their families. The classroom teaching staff at Hickman has annually cleared their desks and moved their chairs. Hickman students have placed information signs, room directions, and signed up to work multiple shifts to support the auditions. The custodial staff has girded themselves for an additional weekend of restroom cleaning, floor sweeping, trash emptying, and emergency maintenance on their building. And the front office staff...*wow the front office staff...* has graciously welcomed the MBA staff into their office space.

For nearly 50 years, MBA has been able to depend on three host band directors and their staffs. John Patterson welcomed the first auditions and hosted the first 23 years. For twelve years Rob Nichols followed Mr. Patterson, and for eleven years Denis Swope has served as our host. Assistant band director Tom Sweeney has supported and spearheaded much of the host duties for many of these years. The additional support of the Hickman High School Band boosters have added an extra layer of assistance to a successful audition day. As band directors, we can all grasp a sense of how much work this is and the amount of internal building diplomacy required to successfully host this event. This award represents the incredible depth of appreciation that Missouri Bandmasters Association, and in fact every band director in the state, has for the support, leadership, and collaboration of Hickman High School and their entire school community.

With the approval and leadership of Hickman High School principals, represented today by current principal Ms. Mary Grupe, Hickman has embraced and supported the largest project of Missouri Bandmasters. The ability to plan on Hickman High School as our audition host makes yearly planning and organization of this event seamless. Our continued All-State Band audition success can, in large part, be attributed to the support of Hickman High School.

It is with the greatest appreciation and enthusiasm that we present the Missouri Bandmasters Association Butch Antal Service Award to Columbia Hickman High School and their principal Ms. Mary Grupe.