



# HENDERSON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL BAND

2424 ZION ROAD  
HENDERSON, KENTUCKY 42420  
(270) 831-8800  
WWW.HCHSBANDS.WEEBLY.COM

*Adam W. Thomas, director*

*Brandon Etienne, assistant director*

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## Justification of Extra Service Position Stipends - Band

**Band Director** – The duties of a band director extend well beyond the 7:30 to 3:30 hours of a teaching position. The band director is responsible for fielding a marching band (whether a competitive marching band that travels or a non-competitive band that performs at football games and community events), providing a pep band for basketball games (including travel), and taking students to events outside the normal school day (All-District/All-State auditions and performances, Solo and Ensemble Festival, etc.). This results in many hours after school and on weekends; this stipend provides some level of compensation for all of those extra hours.

The impact this has on students is that it opens up a wider variety of musical experiences, performance and competitive events, and a showcase of their talents on a local, state, and national level, that would not be possible if the band program's day ended at 3:30.

**Jazz Band Director** – Similar to the rationale above, as jazz band is currently not a class, any work done for that ensemble takes place out of school hours. Even if it were a class, 70 – 80% of performances and festivals for the ensemble take place after school and on weekends. This position entails running a jazz band, educating the students on theory and history of jazz, and providing performance opportunities for the jazz band (Tri-Fest, band concerts, competitive festivals).

The student impact of having a jazz director is that students are given exposure to a style of music that they rarely encounter in the traditional wind band. They are opened up to new areas of music theory and the history of a truly American form of music. This genre also provides more solo opportunities, and can be a more public face for the program, as it is much easier to travel with.

**Coordinator of Band** – This position, typically the head band director, is to make sure that all Henderson band programs (middle and high school) are



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vertically aligned and working toward the same goals. This includes meeting out of class time with all directors in the county, coordinating the middle and high school concerts so that they do not conflict with each other, attending middle and high school concerts, and, when the class schedule allows, assisting at the middle schools during class time.

This allows the student an opportunity for a cohesive band experience from start to finish. The transition from 8<sup>th</sup> grade middle school band to 9<sup>th</sup> grade high school band is a smooth, educationally sound one when the programs are aligned. When the director is allowed the opportunity to spend time at the middle schools, the students get to know the high school director, which increases retention and recruitment for the high school programs.

**Assistant Band Director/Marching Band Assistant/Assistant Marching Band Director** – These stipends are provided for the band director to hire additional staff members to assist in the running of marching band and various other ensembles. Typically these stipends go to middle school band directors to assist with marching band and pep band; percussion instructors who run marching band sectionals, assist on the field, and when the interest and funds are available, run an indoor winter percussion ensemble; woodwind and brass techs to run sectionals and assist with marching band; and color guard instructors to write work for marching band, run sectionals, and, when interest and funds are available, instruct a Winter Guard.

These positions give the students an opportunity to learn from a variety of instructors, most of whom are specific to their instrumental identity, allowing them to learn from a deeper educational well. It allows for greater individual instruction when presented with a 90+ student ensemble like marching band. It allows for more student ensembles that would not be possible if taught by only one person. Lastly, it takes a big burden off of the General Band Fund; when expenses for Instructional Staff are largely paid for by stipends, this frees up more of that budget to be spent on other things that are necessities and directly affect the student, like new music, instrument repair, music technology, and more.