

HENDERSON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

Coordinator — Brian J. Etensohn

NEW POSITION STARTING THIS YEAR: GIFTED TALENTED / MUSIC POSITION

Music Position:

Teacher: Mr. Charlie McManus is a new hire and is new to the teaching position. He is a recent graduate of the University of Kentucky and is excited about this unique teaching opportunity. Mr. McManus is bringing his positive attitude, excitement, experiences and content knowledge to our Fine Arts Department and HCHS. He is joining a Music Department that has seen the choir program grow 20% each of the last three years!

- Mr. McManus will be teaching **ONE** of the three GUITAR classes. Each guitar class will be capped at 25 students due to the need for individual instruction/demonstration. This is the first year for the GUITAR course to be taught at HCHS.
- Mr. McManus will be teaching a portion of the CONCERT CHOIR class which is the beginning choir class at HCHS. This class has a total of 63 students enrolled. Due to this large number a traditional and foundational approach of teaching strategy will be used to instruct this class. Students will be separated into a Men's Choir and a Women's Choir. Both Choirs will receive specific instruction that will be tailored to their specific voice needs. On certain days these two Choirs will be brought together to form the entire CONCERT CHOIR. When the entire CONCERT CHOIR is working together then one on one instruction can take place. This one on one assessment and refinement of individuals will allow for their personal growth that in turn will benefit the overall quality of the group sound.
- Mr. McManus will be teaching SYMPHONIC BAND students at HCHS which are the students that are considered the middle tier band students. Many of these students need the individual instruction and private lessons in order for them to acquire WIND ENSEMBLE BAND. WIND ENSEMBLE BAND is the top level performing band at HCHS. With his direction many students will be able to improve and find confidence in playing their instrument at a proficient level more consistently and at a faster speed than ever before. Mr. McManus will also be adding his assistance to the Marching Band where his specialty is in the area of percussion.

Gifted Talented

Mr. McManus does not currently have a certification in Gifted Talented. He has connected with Western Kentucky University that offers this endorsement. He plans to start as soon as possible.

Once classes at HCHS settle in and teacher's routines are settled. Mr. McManus will begin connecting with students that have been designated as GIFTED TALENTED in the ARTS as well as in LEADERSHIP. Since this position is new I am directing him to proceed with meeting with students and covering several items. The details of this position may develop over time as he gains information from students and knowledge from colleagues about what may be beneficial for the students.

NOTE: Currently there are 505 students that are listed as GIFTED TALENTED in ARTS or LEADERSHIP.

- Mr. McManus will spend approximately three periods a day connecting with students that are designated as GIFTED TALENTED in the ARTS or LEADERSHIP.

- When meeting with these students he will meet with them one on one. He will locate himself in the guidance area of each unit of the high school. So on days that he will be working with students in the Blue Unit he will be in the guidance area of the Blue Unit. This will allow him access to the Guidance Counselors. Students may have questions of their counselor as well. The following is a list of some of the items that Mr. McManus will be covering with students:
 - Discuss with identified students their area of Giftedness and how they would like to increase their studies/interest/exploration in the area
 - Interview student about how they are fostering their giftedness in classes, course selection, projects, extra curricular activities, hobbies, external involvements
 - Interview student about what kind of activity they would like to be engaged in to benefit their GT status.
 - Discuss the student's current course schedule, reflect on their past course schedules and question student ---- if they have ever scheduled their courses based on their GT designation. Why or Why not?
 - Serve as a liaison and advocate for GT students in general education classes
 - Assure the GSSP is followed
 - Review with student their current schedule and talk with them about what they may like to do in the future. Discuss possible future courses and schedules.
 - Look at student's ILP. This may be difficult due to logistics of student's log in info but the goal is getting another set of eyes on the ILP that has some impact on the student. Mr. McManus will be trained by Mr. Brian Ettensohn on how to connect with student using the ILP.
 - Mr. McManus will organize a variety of guest speakers to share their life and skills with GIFTED TALENTED students. This may occur during PLT time or during another time during the school day. Mr. Brian Ettensohn will also assist with this as well since Mr. McManus is not from Henderson and is new to our area.
 - Engage with GT parents of high school students for various purposes
- The one on one time that is set aside for meetings with students is crucial in making a difference in these student's lives. This time will change the course of a child's life. It will show them that someone cares about them. Mr. McManus will gain a great deal of knowledge about each student that is targeted GT. From the information that is gained through this process over the next several months it is my hope that Mr. McManus and I can put together an action plan that will address what we can do next in order to be proactive to benefit the needs of our student's earlier within their high school career.

HENDERSON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL – SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS

The School of Fine Arts is on schedule to be announced publicly with a "BIG SPLASH" in September. We are targeting September because we did not want to confuse families with the start of school in August. We hope to have our website up and going in September as well. The website will have all of our documents on it and readily available. We are currently working on the documents. I am working on finalizing the STRATEGIC PLAN. The STRATEGIC PLAN has been delayed some due to some changes but they were great changes such as the hiring of the GT/MUSIC position! The GUITAR course starts this year and has been a big hit with students and the guitars should be at the high school when you are hearing this information. The Fine Arts Department is working hard to ensure the success of SOFA. September will be big!

Respectfully,

Brian J. Ettensohn

Fine Arts Department Coordinator
Henderson County High School