

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board,

As our marching band postseason quickly approaches, I submit this letter to ask for final approval of our out of state trip to Indiana. A few weeks ago, this trip was discussed and approved “conditionally”. Since then, we have had many challenges and obstacles to overcome. In spite of this, these kids have proven their resilience and determination and stand ready to not only compete for a state championship, but also enter the national stage once again to represent our school and community.

The Bands of America Grand National competition is being held at Lucas Oil Stadium, November 11th - 14th. At this time, there are 97 bands registered for this event, 16 of which are from Kentucky. This is the biggest stage that our activity offers, and it is a true honor and privilege to even be considered a participant.

After meeting with Mr. Saylor and Erika Adams, we have all agreed that every precaution necessary will be taken to keep our students and staff safe during this trip. We discussed several mitigation strategies that will most definitely be top priorities for all of those involved. Mr. Saylor will continue to closely monitor daily numbers to make sure we are in a safe range moving forward. Hopefully the steady decline in numbers will continue.

I ask again that you approve this trip so that these hard working students can continue our tradition of excellence. Losing last year’s season has had a major negative impact on our program. We have lost a few members but most importantly, we lost our understanding of the pride, tradition and reputation that this band held across our state and nationally. It is up to this group to bring it back! I have put this burden on their shoulders, and they are ready to deliver.

As always, thank you for your continued support and consideration.

Musically Yours,

Jason Bowles

Director - Estill Co. High School MARCHING ENGINEERS