

Estill County Bands: Honor Bands

On **January 11, 2020** the Estill County High School Band had four students make the 2020 All-Regional Honor Band. These students auditioned against other schools in a "live judging" audition. Two students made the All-Regional Concert Band and two students made the All-Regional Symphonic Band. These students rehearsed for two and a half days with other students from around the region, and in what takes three months to perfect a piece of music, these students tackled very demanding music in around 20 hours with students who they did not know. The following students below were a part of this event and had an amazing concert: Aiden Owens, Blake Benton, Avery Duechle, and Lauren Mullins.



On **January 31st and 30th**, for the first time in state history and school history, the Kentucky Band Organization (KBO) organized an All-State Middle School Honor Band! This is the highest honor a middle school music student can achieve. Estill County had one among many that auditioned via recording. Students had to record themselves playing multiple scales and two prepared pieces. Students were also given feedback from judges so that they know what to work on for next time and also what they are doing well. William Mullins was the first ever to attain this honor. Congratulations!



Alex Britton and William Mullins



On **January 25th, 2020** the Estill County High School and Middle School attended, for the first time ever, the Bluegrass Honor Band. These students had to audition for the honor band via recordings and were judged by the event host band directors from Bourbon County, where the event was held. These students only had roughly five to six hours to put a concert together with students from other schools they did not know. The following students were a part of this event and had a stellar concert: (High School) Ryan Pasley, Blake Benton, Lauren Mullins, Brooklyn Owens, Avery Duechle, Olivia Thomas. (Middle School) Kaelyn Benton, Bonny Caudill, Brynneigh Muncy, Alexis Stevens, Ashton Hale, Dalton Riddle, Caden Bowles, Ella Seale, Caitlyn Gregory, William Mullins.

On **February 8th, 2020** Estill County High School had one student make the 2020 High School All-State Band. This is the highest honor a high school band student can have in Kentucky. Students play in front of all the music educators, band directors, orchestra teachers, vocal teachers, choir directors, composers, college students, and collegiate faculty in the state and some out of state. This event is a great college recruitment tool and many college professors meet the students. Congratulations to Lauren Mullins, shown below! **(Courtesy of Alex Britton)**



Estill Middle Science Technology, Engineering, and Math



The Estill County Middle School Youth Services Center and the Berea College GEAR UP Opportunity Program recently partnered to host a Family STEM Night. During the evenings activities students and their families engaged in interactive STEM (Science Technology, Engineering, and Math) stations. These stations in-



cluded learning about robotics, chemical reactions, and much more. The Youth Service Center and GEAR UP Opportunity are offering monthly Family Learning Nights similar to this one, if you would like to attend please contact the school for upcoming dates. (Photos courtesy of Micheal Flynn)

