

## **Brad Eston – music education**

### **Why did you choose your degree program? How has it helped you grow personally and professionally?**

I chose my degree program because of how inviting and welcoming the faculty were and because of how easy it was to create a connection on the first day. My degree program has helped me by pushing me to become the best music educator I can be through leadership roles, professional developments, and opportunities to work with students. The program has also pushed me into being a better human by teaching life skills outside of music.

### **What activities are you involved in at McKendree?**

I was involved in the McKendree wind ensemble, concert band, concert choir, and chamber choir.

### **What are you most proud of accomplishing during your time here?**

I'm so blessed that I received two awards this year as I strived to positively impact campus.

### **If you could go back in time, what advice would you give your first-year self?**

Listen to your heart and gut. Trust yourself, you've got this!

### **Who helped you the most on your journey?**

My grandma as she instilled everything I know about social justice and just how to be a good human.

### **Do you have a favorite piece you like to play and/or conduct?**

My favorite piece that I played was "In the Bleak Midwinter," arranged for euphonium/tuba duet. My favorite piece that I've conducted was "Images for Brass," which I conducted with the St. Louis Academy Brass Band.

### **What's next after graduation?**

I have been blessed with a teaching opportunity in the area.