



BILL LAUGHLIN

Bill Laughlin was born in Los Angeles, CA in 1961. After graduating from high school in Roanoke, VA, Mr. Laughlin attended Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion (IN) where he earned his Bachelor of Music Education. He earned a Master of Arts in Education from Ball State University in 1990.

Bill began his teaching career in 1983 at Morristown HS where he directed all of the bands, taught history, coached the golf team, and directed the senior play! In 1988 he became Director of Bands at Paoli Junior/Senior High School where he served in that position for 35 years. During his tenure at Paoli, the Marching Band was a consistent State Finalist at ISSMA Marching Contests, earning 12 State Championships with 5 runner-up finishes. The marching band also participated in Bands of America Regional events. The JH & HS concert bands earned consistent Gold ratings at the Group I level. Through the private lesson program, Paoli students were consistent performers at the ISSMA State Solo Contest. Mr. Laughlin led the marching band in 5 performances at the Philadelphia Thanksgiving Parade, and an eight day trip to Italy, and numerous other trips to Orlando and Chicago.

Very active in his profession, Mr. Laughlin is a 3 time president of the Indiana Bandmasters Association and has served on the boards of the Indiana State School Music Association and the Indiana Music Educators Association. Bill has served as an adjudicator for the Kentucky, Arizona and Utah Marching Band Finals and the Kentucky state concert band finals in addition to many other events in Indiana and Kentucky. Additionally, he has given clinics at the Midwest International Band & Orchestra Clinic, the Indiana and Nebraska state conferences, and universities including ISU, IU, and IWU.

Recognitions earned by Mr. Laughlin include the 1998 Outstanding Alumni Award from Indiana Wesleyan, 1998 Teacher of the Year from Walmart and Paoli Schools, 2004 Phi Beta Mu Outstanding Bandmaster Award, 2006 Outstanding Alumni Award from BSU, 2018 HS Music Educator of the Year from IMEA, 2018 Distinguished Hoosier award from the Governor of Indiana, and induction into the Hall of Fame in 2019.

Bill is married to Gayle who was his assistant director at Paoli for 20 years. Gayle was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2015. Extended family includes a son and daughter in law and 2 grandchildren who live in Fishers, IN. Bill and Gayle also have two Old English Sheepdogs: Mollie and Rosie.

In retirement, Bill is active as a clinician and adjudicator and assists with the Paoli Beginning Band program on a part time basis.