

R Robert Gray

Robert Gray graduated from Union City High School (Tennessee) in 1952, earned degrees from Murray State University and George Peabody College, and received his Ph.D. from St. Louis University in 1978. Dr. Gray joined the faculty at Herculaneum High School in 1965, inheriting a band program that was in a tailspin and only boasting 30-35 members. Bob Gray began his pursuit of excellence in earnest. His desire for every student to reach his or her maximum potential placed the Herculaneum band as one of the top high school bands in eastern Missouri. From 1968 through 1990, the year Dr. Gray retired, the HHS Concert Band received a superior rating of "1" each year at the State Music Festival.

Dr. Gray didn't pick and choose only the best members to compete; he made it a goal to bring all students to excellence. When you talk to his students, you quickly realize he wouldn't settle for something less than their absolute best. He expected their time, their effort, their devotion to perfection, and above all, their respect. And his students surely respected him. They knew the road might be long and difficult, but the end result would be rewarding. They knew that as they practiced and worked for endless hours to achieve the highest level, Dr. Gray would have words of encouragement and then raise the bar a little higher.

After retiring from HHS, Dr. Gray received the Distinguished Service Award from the Missouri High School Activities Association. He was only the fifth person in the field of music education to receive this award. He continues to compose music, is active in church and in the community, and because of his service to the district, has had the new music room at Herculaneum High named in his honor. His greatest legacy continues to be the pursuit of excellence he instilled in his students.