

Shelton is Bandmaster of the Year

Debbie Shelton of Morton Middle School is the state's 2008 Outstanding Bandmaster of the Year.

Shelton, whose bands have logged consistent "distinguished" ratings at spring assessments, credited her students and supporters at Morton.

"I think teaching at this school in particular, we have wonderful students, staff and family here," she said.

She also cited help from colleagues Terry Magee at Lafayette and Bill Kite at Henry Clay high schools. "It takes everybody working together to have outstanding programs like this," Shelton said.

The bandmaster award, voted on by her peers in the Phi Beta Mu honorary band fraternity, was presented Feb. 9 at the Kentucky Center for the Arts in Louisville during the Kentucky Music Educators Association's conference.

"I am so humbled because of the names of bandmasters in the past ... some of our field's greatest talents," said Shelton, who has taught for 28 years, including 23 at Morton.