

How a Shop Teacher became the director of the Greatest High School Band in history. In 1913 A. R. McAllister was a shop teacher in the Joliet Township High School. That year the Board of Education assigned him to the position of Band Director of the High School Band.

The history of the Joliet High School Band after A. R. McAllister assumed the reigns is quite well known. They won many national championships, and he was one of the founding fathers of the Illinois School Band Association and also one of its past presidents.

Under Mr. McAllister's leadership, the Joliet band won state championships from 1924-26 and national championships from 1926-28. In their hometown, the band received permanent possession of the trophy in 1928 and was praised by John Philip Sousa. The band was exempt to play at the 1929 contest in Denver; but, performed as an exhibition group. In 1931, the band regained the national title.