

FIRST COLONIAL BAND NOTES

DECEMBER 11TH, 2021

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings FC Band Family,

Winter break is a little more than a week away & we are ready to perform our winter concert for you! The students have been busy over the past month preparing music for this concert, district band auditions, & two parades. I am proud of the progress each student has made on their individual musicality as well as the progress the band as a whole has made since our first concert in October. I hope to see as many people (as we are allowed) for the concert coming up next week so we can all provide our students with a fantastic audience to reward their continued progress.

Once we return from a well needed winter break, we enter one of the busiest times of our band year with Patriot Percussion rehearsals, VBODA Concert Band Assessment rehearsals, All-District Band, & potential All-Virginia Band auditions. For our Symphonic Band students, this is the busiest part of the year, with weekly evening rehearsals beginning at the end of January. Expectations will continue to increase as we prepare for our assessment performance in early March. It is critical that each member is practicing regularly so that they are prepared for each rehearsal--this will allow them to be successful as an individual & for our ensemble to to achieve the rating we are capable of. Parents--you should see your student practicing at home at least 3-4 times per week!

Thank you again to all of our students, parents, friends, family members & all others who continue to support the performing arts at FCHS. I hope everyone has a wonderful winter break relaxing with friends & family!

Musically Yours,

Luke Walker
Director of Bands
Tri-M Music Honor Society Advisor

Performing Arts Department Chair
PBIS Team Leader
First Colonial High School
www.fcband.org



FIRST COLONIAL HIGH SCHOOL

FCBB JANUARY MEETING

WHEN

TUESDAY, JAN. 11TH 2022 AT 6PM

WHERE

**1272 MILL DAM ROAD
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA**

MORE INFORMATION

We will hold our monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 11th at 6pm in person in the band room at FCHS.

If you are a parent/grandparent/guardian/caregiver, **you are encouraged** to be a member of the First Colonial Band Boosters. Meetings are held monthly where we discuss program direction, fundraisers, student events, & much more. All are encouraged to participate & help make our program the best that it can be.

To join FCBB in BAND, click [here](#).

WINTER CONCERT

We will have our Winter Concert on **Tuesday, December 14th at 7pm**. Student report time is 6pm & doors will open to the theater at 6:45pm for audience members.

Due to changes in the VBCPS Covid protocols, all indoor winter sports & performing arts events are now limited to 25% venue capacity. With this limit in place, we are required to

distribute tickets & limit the total number of attendees to 180 persons for this concert. Each student was given 3 tickets. Tickets were distributed in classes on December 9th & 10th (note: many students left their tickets in class & did not take them home). We are asking that any tickets that are not needed be returned by Tuesday morning so they can be distributed to those requesting more than 3 tickets.



AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS & PERFORMANCES

As per VBCPS course requirements, we will be having after-school rehearsals for all Symphonic Band students (brass, woodwind, percussion) leading up to our performances. All dates are listed in the course expectations & handbook. The rehearsals for the next 2 months:

Monday, December 13th 5-8pm - Winter Concert Dress Rehearsal*

Tuesday, December 14th 6-8:30pm - Winter Concert

**Dress Rehearsal*

Please note, all rehearsals are mandatory & are graded. Rehearsals take priority over work/clubs/sports practice/etc. A 0 will be earned by all with unexcused absences. Students with unexcused absences from the Dress Rehearsal will not be permitted to perform at the concert.

Concert Attire

A reminder that all students are required to be in the appropriate concert attire for all formal concerts.

- Black tuxedo, white tuxedo shirt, black bow tie & cummerbund, black dress shoes with long black socks.
- Black concert dress. ("Laurel" model)

All items can be obtained through various avenues, however we recommend using [Southeastern Apparel](#).



VBODA CONCERT BAND ASSESSMENT

VBODA Concert Band Assessment is the "music SOL" where our performing ensembles are given a rating by a panel of adjudicators. While the assessment does not occur until early March, I wanted to pass along some information & reminders for this concert program, as we will be beginning to rehearse for it after the Winter Concert.

1. Our after school rehearsal times shift from 2:30-4:30pm to 5-8pm on Tuesdays. While this will be new to some of our students, this has been the normal at FCHS & is currently normal for the other VBCPS HS band programs. These rehearsals are later in the afternoon for a few reasons: 1-We rehearse on stage, which is not available directly after school. 2-We bring guest clinicians & adjudicators to work with our students during this concert program. 3-The extended rehearsal time is needed to put together the difficult music & allow the ensemble (split over 4 classes during the day) the ability to function as an ensemble & develop the necessary skills needed to perform difficult concert literature.
2. Not all students will participate in the ensemble that goes to assessment. Students that have demonstrated dependability, regular practice habits, & the ability to be successful on the music will be assigned parts for this concert unit. All of our percussionists will not be used, as the literature does not require 16 percussion. All students that are not assigned to perform for assessment will continue to work on skill development in class & will have different assignments during this period.
3. All students will have regular, nightly playing assignments either via SmartMusic or Schoology. Instruments should be going home daily (with the exception of percussion & tubas—they will be given 25 minutes per day during Patriot Pause to complete these

assignments) & should be practiced with a purpose each day. Full rehearsal schedules & assignments will be given at the beginning of each week.

PATRIOT PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Our 2021-2022 Patriot Percussion Ensemble is set & we have started rehearsing! We are spending the first rehearsals working on basic fundamentals & techniques, as over half of our members are not percussionists. We will also be using this time to work on ensemble timing & unity, as there is no conductor when this ensemble performs. We will begin working on show music just before winter break.

The ensemble rehearses on Mondays (2:30-4:30pm), Thursdays (2:30-6pm), & Saturdays (9am-2pm) with minor exceptions. The full calendar & up to date information can be found in our [BAND group here](#). We request that all members & parents of members join the group so they do not miss out on important updates & information.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN MUSIC EDUCATION

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ABOUT US

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