

Director's Notes

As we enter the last quarter of the year, there are still many exciting things happening with our band program. Each class is diligently working to prepare a spring concert program, we have the spring musical, drumline & guard camps begin, the Strawberry Festival Parade, we have the end of year band banquet, & last but certainly not least--- we have graduation! As we all push to the end of the year, make sure to stay on top of all events (band, sports, testing, etc) & enjoy the wonderful weather spring has to offer!

-Luke Walker



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Winter Percussion Wrap-up

Congratulations to our Winter Percussion Ensemble on the conclusion of a fun & successful season. The WPE competed in 4 Atlantic Indoor Association Competitions this season, including North Atlantic Championships. The results for the season:

February 9	EC Glass HS	1 st in class	66.90
March 2	Atlee HS	1 st in class	79.00
March 16	Potomac HS	1 st in class	77.20
March 30	Championships	1 st in class	83.75

At North Championships at South County HS, the WPE placed first, earning the Gold Medals for being the 2019 PSCA Champions. FC WPE was the only Hampton Roads percussion ensemble to earn gold, with the Hickory High School WPE earning a silver medal in the PSCO class.

We are extremely proud of all of our WPE students, as their hard work extended our undefeated streak to two full seasons. We are already looking forward to next season & hope to have more students involved with the fantastic ensemble.

Upcoming Events

4/4-6 All-Virginia Band
4/5 Pit Orchestra
4/6 Car Wash at AutoZone
4/10 Pit Orchestra
4/11 Pep Rally (Drumline)
4/20 Car Wash at AutoZone
4/22 Musical Dress Rehearsal
4/23 Leadership Lunch
4/23 Musical Dress Rehearsal
4/24 Something in the Water
4/24 Musical Dress Rehearsal
4/25 Spring Musical
4/26 Spring Musical
4/27 Spring Musical
4/28 Spring Musical
4/30 After-School Rehearsal
5/1 Marching Band Due
5/7 Leadership Lunch
5/8 Spring Concert DR
5/9 Spring Concert
5/13 Drumline/Guard WS
5/15 Drumline/Guard WS
5/17 Leadership Forms Due
5/18 Matress Fundraiser
5/20 Drumline/Guard WS
5/21 Leadership Auditions
5/22 Drumline/Guard WS
5/24 Parade Practice
5/25 Strawberry Parade
5/28 Drumline/Guard WS
5/29 Drumline Part Auditions
6/1 Marching Band Kick-off
6/3 Band Banquet
6/13 Graduation



VBODA Assessment

Congratulations to all of our students who participated in the VBODA Concert Assessment on March 9th. The ensemble earned 2 “Superior Ratings” & 2 “Excellent” ratings

2019-2020 Information Meeting - Recap

On Monday, March 18th we held a meeting detailing our plans for the 2019-2020 band year. Starting with curricular ensembles, we will be offering 4:

- Beginning Band: Designed for beginners or students learning a secondary instrument. No recommendation required.
- Intermediate Band (Concert Band): Designed for intermediate (Grade 2-4) wind players. Director recommendation required.
- Advanced Band (Wind Ensemble): Designed for advanced (Grade 4-6) wind players. Lessons strongly encouraged. Director recommendation required. (Note—on course verification sheets, students placed in this class show “Guitar II”. This is not a mistake—they are using that course number to keep winds & percussion separate until they populate the actual classes in the system later this spring).
- Advanced Band (Percussion Ensemble): For all percussionists, regardless of skill level.

For “extracurriculars”, several things will be changing. First, ensembles that were considered “extracurricular” in the past will now be classified as “co-curricular”, that is as an extension of the curricular ensembles. This puts us in alignment with the Virginia Music SOL’s, which actually state students enrolled in Intermediate & Advanced Bands are expected to participate in co-curricular ensembles (Marching Band, All-District Band, etc.).

Second, we will be changing the co-curricular ensembles offered at FC. Jazz Band & Sax Choir will not be returning for next year (students are still encouraged to form ensembles/play during one-lunch) due to instrumentation/commitment issues. We will be offering Marching Band, Winter Percussion Ensemble, & Pep Band (new, will perform at select sporting events). Pep Band will allow all students (not just bras + saxes) the opportunity to participate & will perform music typical at college sporting events (jazz, pop, funk, rock, etc).

For students planning on participating in marching band---all forms & deposits are due by **May 1st**. Please see Mr. Walker for forms or with questions.

Spring Fundraisers

To help meet our 2018-2019 band budget, we will be conducting a few fundraising events this spring. First, we will be hosting a series of carwashes (mostly at the AutoZone off of Little Neck). The more students we have involved, the more successful (and fun) the events typically are.

Second, we will be hosting a large mattress fundraiser at FC on Saturday, May 18th. For this, we need to work together to advertise the event (or purchase a new mattress if it is time) to attract as many customers as possible. We only need to sell 33 to meet our goal as a band. Start spreading the word now to make this a success.

2019-2020 Leadership Auditions

As we finish up our leadership training, a reminder to all students of the application requirements:

- Completed training (Schoology Reflections)
- Leadership Resume
- Band Resume
- FC Adult interview (on leadership), brief reflection (Schoology)
- Service Project
- Short Speech (1-2 minutes) for interview panel
- Interview (for selection committee at FC, 5/21)
- Drum Majors Only: Conducting Presentation

Leadership applications are due by Friday, May 17th. Interviews will be held on Tuesday, May 21st. The leadership team results will be posted at the end of the day on Thursday, May 23rd.

This Month's Practice Tip

Tip: Practice with Purpose

It is easy to get into a practice routine as a musician & only go through the motions at times. To avoid getting stuck in this rut, make sure you begin each practice session with a clear goal in mind. It is fine to practice fundamentals & music you enjoy, but make sure you dedicate time to improve those trouble spots & that there is a specific goal for each item you practice.

Music Advocacy

The U.S. Department of Education data on more than 25,000 secondary school students found that students who report consistent high levels of involvement in instrumental music over the middle and high school years show "significantly higher levels of mathematics proficiency by grade 12."

- U.S. Department of Education
NELLS88 Database

Music Quote

"The whole problem can be stated quite simply by asking, 'Is there a meaning to music?' My answer would be, 'Yes.' And 'Can you state in so many words what the meaning is?' My answer to that would be, 'No.'"

-Aaron Copland



March

Student of Month

Wind Ensemble:

Jared Holloway

Concert Band:

Michael Cooper

Percussion Class:

Foster Deneke

Something in the Water Festival

We have been invited to perform at a pep rally / opening ceremony for the Something in the Water Festival being held later this month. Pharrell Williams, a band alumni of Princess Anne, has invited all of the VBCPS high school bands to perform on Wednesday, April 24th at a 3:30pm ceremony involving the mayor. More information will be distributed once it is approved/finalized by administration.

Spring Concert

A reminder to all that our Spring Band Concert will be held on Thursday, May 9th. The concert will begin at 6:30pm with the Lynnhaven Bands. The FC portion of the concert will begin at 7pm. The concert will conclude by approximately 8:15pm. We are asking each family to bring a dessert to share at the reception following the concert.

End of Year Band Banquet

Our end of year banquet & awards ceremony will be held on Monday, June 3rd at FC. Dinner will begin at 6pm (catered by Ynot) & the awards ceremony will begin at 7pm. Tickets & more information will be available in the coming weeks. Make plans to attend this, as it will be the last event we spend together as a band before our seniors graduate.

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