

## Director's Notes

With so many things going on this time of year, please take the time to review our calendar of events. With our assessment program, progress is being made, but we have struggled to work on big-picture items such as balance, blend, & intonation---we simply have not had quality attendance to fix this (we have been missing at least 5 members at each rehearsal !). With our assessment 2 weeks away, it is imperative we have every member present at our remaining rehearsals, or else a superior rating will simply not be attainable. We must continue to push to the end as we raise our performance standards.

-Luke Walker



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## VBODA Concert Band Assessment Update

With VBODA Assessment less than two weeks away, here is an update on our progress:

- Vast majority of students proficient on individual parts, but still weak spots that need attention.
- Intonation & balance are our biggest areas of weakness. Intonation requires individual student listening/focus during rehearsals---we are inconsistent currently. Balance & intonation have been compromised due to attendance issues---have not had a full rehearsal yet with everyone---in fact, we have had at least 5 students missing at each of our full ensemble rehearsals.
- Musicality is a work in progress, but requires each student to come fully prepared with their parts to rehearsal so that they may better listen to other parts & learn the relationship it has to their own.

We have two remaining after school full-ensemble (winds + percussion) remaining before assessment (Tuesday 2/26, Tuesday 3/5). Our schedule for the day of Assessment (3/9/19):

11:00am	Report to FC
12:00pm	Depart for Tallwood HS
1:45pm	Perform
3:00pm	Dismissed

## Upcoming Events

- 2/26 Assessment Rehearsal
- 2/26 WP Practice
- 2/27 FC Paint Night
- 2/28 WP Practice
- 3/2 WP Competition
- 3/4 Sax Choir
- 3/5 Leadership Lunch
- 3/5 Assessment Rehearsal
- 3/5 WP Practice
- 3/6 FCBB Meeting
- 3/7 LMS Assessment
- 3/9 FCHS Assessment
- 3/11 Sax Choir
- 3/12 WP Practice
- 3/13 WP Practice
- 3/14 Pit Orchestra Lunch
- 3/16 WP Competition
- 3/18 2019 Band Meeting
- 3/19 Leadership Lunch
- 3/20 Pit Orchestra
- 3/21 WP Practice
- 3/22 Pit Orchestra
- 3/23 WP Practice
- 3/25 Tri-M Lunch
- 3/25 Sax Choir
- 3/26 WP Practice
- 3/27 Pit Orchestra
- 3/28 WP Practice
- 3/29 Pit Orchestra
- 3/30 WP Championships



## All-Virginia Auditions

On February 22-23 we had 5 students audition for the All-Virginia Honor Band. Congratulations to Jayna Deeb for earning placement into this ensemble!

## VBODA District 2 Honor Band

Congratulations to our students who earned placement to the VBODA District 2 Honor Band. The students had a wonderful time working with other District 2 students under conductors Trey Harris & Dr. Virginia Allen.



## Winter Percussion Ensemble

Our Winter Percussion Ensemble has entered the competitive portion of their season, earning 1<sup>st</sup> place at their competition at EC Glass HS on February 16<sup>th</sup>. The WPE will look to continue their unbeaten streak at Atlee HS on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, with a 5:50pm performance time. The remainder of the season includes an AIA competition at Potomoc HS on March 16<sup>th</sup> & will conclude as the WPE competes for Gold at the AIA Championships on March 30<sup>th</sup> at South County HS. If you have yet to see their show, Metroplex, make every effort to see them before the end of the season!

## 2019-2020 Leadership Auditions

An interest meeting for 2019-2020 Marching Patriots Leadership Team was held on Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup>. This year, students will be working through Scott Lang's "Leadership Survival Guide" in a series of videos & reflections on Schoology, as well as group discussions during the first half of one-lunch every other week. Each student will be required to submit resumes, complete a service project, & will be interviewed by a panel on Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Several factors will be taken into consideration as we look for next year's leaders:

- Past Performance (as musician, marcher, member, leader)
- Dependability & Commitment
- Quality of Application
- Future Leadership Potential
- Best fit for the Individual/Organization

Leadership selection results will be posted at the end of the day on Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## This Month's Practice Tip

### **Tip: Warm-up Mindfully**

Make sure that you always start your practice with warmups. But don't just run through your exercises for the prerequisite amount of time while thinking about what you are going to have for dinner that day. The purpose of warming up is not simply to get your muscles moving. It is in the warm up that you are solidifying your technique. You are preparing your body and your mind for the work and you must be "present." Before you start an exercise remind yourself of why you are doing that particular exercise. As you go through the exercise, be aware of how you are feeling, how you are breathing, if your body is alerting you to tension, etc. Keep your mind in the game at all times – even through the tedious stuff.

## Music Advocacy

Schools that have music programs have an attendance rate of 93.3% compared to 84.9% in schools without music programs (The National Association for Music Education. "Music Makes the Grade." The National Association for Music Education. Accessed February 24, 2015).

## Music Quote

"Music education was always big for me. Ever since I was a young kid, I always said it was the reason I went to school."

-Darius Rucker





### Student of Month

Wind Ensemble:

*Katie Cozzens*

Concert Band:

*Gavin Moore*

Percussion Class:

*Arianna Okeke*

## FC Jazz Express

We will be suspending practice for the FC Jazz Express for the next several weeks—as I will be spending time working with LMS as they prepare for Assessment.

## 2019-2020 Band Information Meeting

We will be holding an information meeting for the 2019-2020 band year on Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Information for classes, extracurricular ensembles, & marching band will be distributed at this meeting. If you are planning or have any interest in being in the Marching Patriots, it is critical you attend this meeting---all of the dates & registration information will be dispersed.

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## Community Partners in Music Education



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