

## Director's Notes

Welcome to the New Year! We are excited about the full slate of opportunities ahead of us this year. This time of year is a busy time in our band calendar, as we have VBODA Assessment, Winter Percussion competitions, & performances by our Jazz Band & Sax Choir.

As we prepare for our VBODA Assessment, we are fortunate to be able to bring in a variety of guest clinicians to work with our students. After-school rehearsals for the Wind Ensemble will also resume in February.

Thank you for your continued support!

-Luke Walker



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## VBODA Concert Band Assessment Primer

VBODA Concert Assessment is the equivalent of a “music SOL test”. For this, we are required to prepare a concert consisting of three pieces, with the first piece being a march. After performing these pieces for a panel of three adjudicators, we then transition to sight-reading. For sight-reading, we are given a period of seven minutes to study & prepare a piece of music (without actually playing). At the conclusion of the preparation time, we perform the selection for an adjudicator.

During our preparation for this concert, we are fortunate to bring in a variety of guest clinicians to assist us. Our students were able to receive sectional instruction from local professionals at our Assessment Bootcamp. Last week, the Wind Ensemble class worked with Dr. Robblee, Director of Bands at Shenandoah Conservatory.

Looking ahead, we will be bringing in several guest clinicians to provide feedback & work with our students at our Pre-Assessment Concert & Workshop on February 12. After-school rehearsals will also resume in February, as this is the only time we are able to combine percussion & winds. A reminder that we have not yet received our performance slot for VBODA Assessment, but the date printed in the syllabus is still accurate (March 7-9). In past years, we have performed on Saturday mornings, which is where I would assume we would perform again this year.

## Upcoming Events

1/22 WP Practice  
 1/23 Jazz Band Practice  
 1/24 WP Practice  
 1/28 Sax Choir Practice  
 1/29 WP Practice  
 1/30 Jazz Band Practice  
 1/31 WP Practice  
 1/31 District Band  
 2/1 District Band  
 2/2 District Band  
 2/4 Sax Choir Practice  
 2/5 WE + Percussion  
 2/5 WP Practice  
 2/6 Jazz Band Practice  
 2/7 WP Preview Show  
 2/9 WP Competition  
 2/11 WE + Percussion  
 Dress Rehearsal  
 2/12 Pre-Assessment  
 Concert & Workshop  
 2/13 Jazz Band Practice  
 2/14 WP Practice  
 2/16 WP Practice  
 2/18 Sax Choir Practice  
 2/19 WP Practice  
 2/20 Jazz Band Practice  
 2/21 WP Practice  
 2/22 All-Virginia Auditions  
 2/23 All-Virginia Auditions



## Tri-M Soup Kitchen

Several of our FC Band Tri-M members volunteered at a soup kitchen in Chesapeake January 11. Students prepared & served dinner to the South Norfolk community.

## VBODA District 2 Honor Band

Back in December, we had 34 students audition for the VBODA District 2 Honor Band. First Colonial was well represented, with the following students earning All-District recognition:

Jayna Deeb	1 <sup>st</sup> Chair Piccolo	Symphonic Band
Jayna Deeb	1 <sup>st</sup> Chair Flute	Symphonic Band
Reese Matthews	3 <sup>rd</sup> Chair Flute	Symphonic Band
Faith Sconing	5 <sup>th</sup> Chair Flute	Concert Band
Zachary Coltrain	2 <sup>nd</sup> Chair Bassoon	Symphonic Band
Sydney Hannah	10 <sup>th</sup> Chair Clarinet	Symphonic Band
Sydney Sallinger	19 <sup>th</sup> Chair Clarinet	Concert Band
Evan Carter	2 <sup>nd</sup> Chair Bass Clarinet	Concert Band
Tanner Williams	1 <sup>st</sup> Alternate Bass Clarinet	Concert Band
Katie Cozzens	8 <sup>th</sup> Chair Trumpet	Concert Band
Michael Volkringer	8 <sup>th</sup> Chair Horn	Symphonic Band
Ben Cozzens	8 <sup>th</sup> Chair Horn	Concert Band
Shaun Thomason	3 <sup>rd</sup> Chair Trombone	Symphonic Band
Alden Russell	3 <sup>rd</sup> Chair Trombone	Concert Band
Riley Martinez	3 <sup>rd</sup> Chair Percussion	Symphonic Band
Andrew Gille	1 <sup>st</sup> Chair Percussion	Concert Band

The students will participate January 31-February 2 at Cox HS, with the final concert at Cox HS on Saturday, February 2.

# Winter Percussion Ensemble

Our Winter Percussion Ensemble is off to a terrific start thus far. This year, our ensemble members are:

Riley Martinez	Marimba 1
Damien Fitzgerald	Marimba 2
Jared Holloway	Xylophone
Sam Silvia	Vibraphone 1
David Costello	Vibraphone 2
Foster Deneke	Glockenspiel
Wyatt Voshall	Chimes
Zach Phillips	Timpani
Arianna Okeke	Synth
Andrew Gille	Drumset
Jacob Phillips	Aux Percussion

The show for the 2018-2019 season is "Metroplex", featuring music from Robert Sheldon's "Metroplex" & Charles Mingus' "Children's Hour of Dream". Come out to our preview show on Thursday, February 7 at 6pm. The competitive season kicks off at EC Glass HS in Lynchburg on February 9<sup>th</sup>. The WP Ensemble will compete at Atlee HS in Hanover (March 2), Potomac HS in Dumfries (March 16), & conclude at the AIA Championships at South County HS in Lorton (March 30).



## Music Advocacy

In a recent Harris Interactive Poll of high school principals, schools with music programs (90.2%) had a significantly higher graduation rate compared to those without music programs (72.9%).

## Music Quote

"Music has the power of producing a certain effect on the moral character of the soul, and if it has the power to do this, it is clear that the young must be directed to music and must be educated in it."

-Aristotle

## This Month's Practice Tip

### **Tip: Write out a schedule.**

A schedule helps you organize your time. Set a schedule for when you practice, pick a consistent time each day & make it part of your daily habits. For each practice session, attempt to develop a routine to cover all your bases. A sample 20 minute practice routine:

4 minutes	Warm-up
6 minutes	Fundamentals/technique
8 minutes	Literature (concert or solo)
2 minutes	Cool-down



## Student of Month

Wind Ensemble:

*Armin Tabibi*

Concert Band:

*Max McLoon*

Percussion Class:

*Andrew Gille*

## FC Jazz Express

The FC Jazz Express performed at Alanton ES prior to winter break. Between sets, our FC students went out & spoke with the elementary students about instruments & music. The FC Jazz Express will perform several times this spring.



## Community Partners in Music Education



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