

FC BAND

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 1, 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

11/2 Homecoming Game
11/2 Senior Night Recognition
11/5 Chamber Ensembles Meeting
11/7 FCBB Meeting
11/9-10 SRO Event
11/12 Fundraiser Due
11/12 Sax Choir Rehearsal
11/13 Winter Percussion Meeting
11/14 Jazz Express Rehearsal
11/19 Tri-M Meeting
11/19 Sax Choir Rehearsal
11/27 Wind Ensemble + Percussion
11/28 Jazz Express Rehearsal
11/29 Concert Band + Percussion
11/30 Holiday Parade Practice
12/1 Holiday Parade
12/3 Sax Choir Rehearsal
12/5 Winter Concert Dress Rehearsal
12/6 Winter Band Concert
12/8 District Band Auditions
12/10 Tri-M Meeting
12/11 Winter Percussion Rehearsal

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

FC Band Family,

The Thanksgiving season serves as a strong reminder that we have much to be thankful for in our music program:

* From a national perspective, we must be thankful for the enumeration of music as a well-rounded subject in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA 2015).

* From a community vantage point, we must be thankful for local leaders who are solid supporters of music in our schools; they realize music education offers heightened performance in the all aspects of life and they are outspoken advocates of music education.

* Sincere thanks are extended to our administrators. We continue to enjoy an ongoing open dialogue focusing on the role of music as part of a complete curriculum offering. We truly have the most supportive administration for the arts in Virginia Beach.

* From a personal standpoint, THANK YOU, PARENTS! Your keen interest, loyal support and active participation are the essential elements of our successful past, our exciting present and our promising future.

* Collectively, we must extend thanks to the young men and women who spend countless hours in the learning, rehearsing, and performing of music. It is a privilege and an honor to work with the finest students at First Colonial. These music makers of today are preparing to be the leaders of tomorrow.

Yes, music does make the difference, and we are thankful each student has chosen to join their fellow artist-musicians as part of our musical family. The disciplines learned in music classes reinforce a standard of excellence that is required for success in all of life.

As we approach the quarter point of our academic year, I extend a sincere vote of thanks to everyone who has made it possible for our music program to thrive and prosper. Your investment of time, effort and energy is the key to our success.

With gratitude,

Luke Walker
Director of Bands

In speaking of his renowned Theory of Relativity, Albert Einstein said, "It occurred to me by intuition that music was the driving force behind that intuition and my discovery was the result of my musical perception."

CONCERT ATTIRE

All orders for concert attire being placed through FCBB are due by Tuesday, November 13th. Otherwise, students will be responsible for acquiring the concert attire through their own means. Dresses ("Laurel Model") can be ordered online through Southeastern Apparel. Tux ensembles can also be purchased through Southeastern Apparel, however they can be purchased elsewhere as long as they meet the requirements set forth in the class syllabus.

HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER

Materials for our first full-band fundraiser of the year have been distributed to students. All orders (with payment) are due by Monday, November 12th. We are asking each student to attempt to sell at least 10 items. Proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to bring in professional musicians, purchase needed supplies, & support our concert programs. Our goal is to limit the amount of fundraisers, choosing to focus on quality & full participation instead of large quantities of fundraisers. We thank you for your effort with this fundraiser!

MARCHING BAND

A big thank you to all of our parents & volunteers that made this marching season run so smoothly. While we still have Homecoming & a few parades left this year, the competitive part of our year is done. We wrapped up the season this past Saturday with an Excellent Rating in difficult conditions at the VBODA Marching Assessment, followed by a 1st place finish at Tallwood, winning each caption possible. The full results for our season:

Southeastern Virginia Music Games at HHS (VMBC)	4 th Place
Tidewater Regional (VMBC)	5 th Place
Grassfield Marching Classic <i>Won captions of Music, Visual, General Effect, Percussion</i>	1 st Place
Cox Falcon Classic (VMBC) <i>Won captions of General Effect, Visual</i>	2 nd Place
Menchville Monarch Invitational <i>Won captions of Marching, Percussion</i>	2 nd Place
VBODA Marching Assessment	Excellent Rating
Tallwood Invitational <i>Won captions of Visual, Music, General Effect, Percussion, Guard, Drum Major</i>	1 st Place

Throughout the season, the students showed continued growth & improvement. By the end of the season, we were not only beating Class 1A groups, but were scoring higher than several 2A, 3A, & even 4A bands. Our young percussion section consistently scored among the highest scoring units. The future is very bright for this ensemble as we continue to grow in numbers & raise our standards as a program.

HOLIDAY PARADE

The Marching Patriots will be participating in the Virginia Beach Holiday Parade at the Oceanfront on Saturday, December 1st. *All students, even those that did not march with us this season, are invited to participate in this event.* Music will be distributed in class on Monday, November 6th & we will have a rehearsal on Friday, November 30th from 5-7pm. A detailed itinerary for December 1st will be distributed as soon as we receive final information from the parade organizers.

WINTER CONCERTS

We are quickly approaching our first concert of the year. Our Winter Concert will be held on Thursday, December 6th. The concert will begin at 6:30pm with Lynnhaven Middle School's Band program. The First Colonial portion of the concert will begin promptly at 7:00pm, with the concert concluding by 8:00pm. To prepare for this event, we have a few after-school rehearsals scheduled:

Tuesday, November 27 th	2:30-4:30pm	Wind Ensemble + Percussion
Thursday, November 29 th	2:30-4:30pm	Concert Band + Percussion
Wednesday, December 5 th	2:30-4:30pm	Dress Rehearsal (Everyone)

These rehearsals are a part of the class requirement & are reflected in the students' grades. Students that are not present at the Dress Rehearsal will not be permitted to play at the Concert. Please note, we have made every effort to limit the amount of after-school rehearsals to only what is necessary (there are several other programs in the city that rehearse weekly, i.e. Tuesdays 5-8pm).

DISTRICT BAND AUDITIONS

District Band auditions will be held at Kellam High School on Saturday, December 8th. Audition materials have been distributed to all students. Registration/Commitment Forms will be given to students on Monday, November 5th & are due back no later than Wednesday, November 14th.

Audition times will be sent out as soon they are made available, but students should expect the audition process to last approximately 1 hour, with auditions beginning at 8am & ending around 3pm. *A reminder that all Wind Ensemble members are required to audition for a performance grade.*

FIRST COLONIAL BAND BOOSTERS

FCBB is the organization open to all parents that supports the band program here at First Colonial. Meetings are held monthly at FC & all parents are invited to attend. FCBB supports all of the ensembles (Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, Percussion Ensemble, Jazz Band, Saxophone Choir, & Winter Percussion), not just the marching band. If you have any questions relating to FCBB, please contact any of our FCBB officers (contact information can be found on the website).

JAZZ BAND & SAXOPHONE CHOIR

We will be holding an informational meeting for all students that wish to participate in Jazz Band & Saxophone Choir on Monday, November 5th directly after school. This meeting should last approximately 30 minutes.

WINTER PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

We will be holding an informational meeting for all students interested in being a part of our competitive Winter Percussion Ensemble on Tuesday, November 13th directly after school. This meeting should last no longer than 30 minutes. Our Winter Percussion Ensemble will rehearse 2-3 times per week December through early April & will compete at several events on the east coast February-April. Last season was our first year competing in the Atlantic Indoor Association Concert Percussion Class, earning 1st place finishes at each event. We hope to build upon that success this year & attend the AIA Championship event at the end of the season.

SENIOR REGIONAL ORCHESTRA

We had several students audition for Senior Regional Orchestra in early October, with 2 students earning placement into the ensemble. Congratulations to Jayna Deeb & Zachary Coltrain for earning placements in the Symphony Orchestra! Both students will participate in the 2-day event November 9-10 at Ocean Lakes High School. The concert will begin at 3pm on Saturday, November 10th at OLHS.

TRI-M MUSIC HONOR SOCIETY

Congratulations to all of the students selected to be in the First Colonial Chapter of Tri-M! Over 50 students applied, with 36 students earning membership. Of the 36 students, we were very well represented with 20 of them being band members. Tri-M will meet monthly on Monday directly after school, with our next meeting being on Monday, November 19th. Please make sure all dues are taken care of prior to this meeting.

Thank you to all of our 2018-2019 Community Partners in Music Education

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