



2018-2019 WIND ENSEMBLE AUDITION PACKET

Dear Band Members,

Congratulations! You are interested in auditioning for the premier performance ensemble at First Colonial High School. We hope that you audition to the best of your ability. We have a fantastic, growing Band Program at First Colonial. Be proud of it, enjoy the competition, and best of luck to all.

There are talented musicians returning in every section. If you want to be a part of this ensemble, then practice. Good preparation will help you relax for your audition. Returning members have a slight advantage, as they have been in the ensemble for at least a year, however every seat is up for audition. It is expected that current members should keep their seat, however nothing is guaranteed. Start practicing today. Excerpts should be at performance level (more than just correct notes & rhythms....articulations/dynamics/phrasing).

While we are looking to improve in every section, we are expecting to need/have to replace the following:

1 Flute	1 Oboe	1-2 Clarinets	1 Bass Clarinet
2-3 Trumpets	2-3 Horns	1-2 Trombones	1 Euphonium
1 Tuba			

Audition Procedures:

The Wind Ensemble audition process will be broken up in several sections:

1. Major and chromatic scales (at least two octaves, to be played evenly)
2. Excerpts (Students should play as many complete excerpts as possible. Each should be played at the tempo at which the student can best perform the excerpt).
3. Sight reading

Auditions can be scheduled through the band website (www.fcband.org). Auditions will be held from May 1st through August 8th. Students are allowed to prepare as much as they wish, however they may only audition once.

Expectations for Wind Ensemble:

Performances

Wind Ensemble will have at least 4 performances during the year, all of which are outside the school day. Attendance is mandatory at all performance AND dress rehearsals.

Class Rehearsals

To be in the Wind Ensemble, it is necessary for you to be enrolled in the Advanced Band course at First Colonial. As the program continues to grow & improve, it is necessary for each student to be in the class in order to not only improve as an individual musician, but to improve their ensemble skills & develop higher-level listening skills.

After-School Rehearsals

It is necessary multiple times per year to hold after-school rehearsals for a variety of reasons. The largest reason is that this is the only time our ensemble can rehearse with the percussionists. Other reasons include sectionals & workshops with guest clinicians that could not happen during the school day. These rehearsals are all announced the first week of school. The rehearsals are mandatory & graded. After-school rehearsals are not only necessary for the ensemble to function at a high level, they are part of the curriculum & included in the course requirements for VBCPS. Failure to attend these rehearsals for whatever reason (homework, sports teams, clubs, general apathy, work) will result in dismissal from the ensemble.

Personal Practice

For all students in the FC Band Program, personal improvement is a goal & a requirement. This is achieved by developing a daily practice routine (20-30 minutes suggested) to focus on technique & literature. For students in Wind Ensemble, there is no flexibility on this issue. It is highly recommended that all Wind Ensemble members study privately with a local professional in order to be able to perform grade 5-6 literature effectively.

Attitude & Work Ethic

All students that participate in the FC Band Program are required to have a team-first attitude. We are a team that works to achieve what is “best for the band”. Having a strong work ethic & strong desire to improve the band is a priority. Students that are more focused on “me” or “what will make me look the best” will not be a good fit for this program & are encouraged to seek to join other organizations outside of the FC Band Program.

I am excited for the year ahead of us. There are many exciting opportunities in each of our programs, both curricular & extra-curricular. As the band director, I look forward to hearing you play your best audition & wish you the best of luck. The decision making process during auditions can sometimes be easy, but can be difficult as well. What I can promise to each student is a fair audition process. We will go with the students that had the best audition & that have demonstrated they have the necessary talent AND attitude to be successful. Choosing to withdraw from band because you did not “win the audition” is not only a decision that will affect your eligibility for future years, but is a negative reflection on one’s character & attitude. We are all lucky to be part of this band program, outstanding high school, and great community for music education. I look forward to hearing you all audition!

Musically Yours,

Mr. Luke Walker

Director of Bands

First Colonial High School

www.fcband.org