

Happy Sunday band family!

I hope that everyone is enjoying their 3-day weekend as we celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Here are a few of my favorite quotes from Dr. King:

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.”

“Hate is too great a burden to bear. I have decided to love.”

“I know that love is ultimately the only answer to mankind’s problems.”

The common theme in these is LOVE. I hope that these words inspire you as they have inspired me. I challenge everyone to do something positive this week to show love to others, especially those that are different than you. We are so fortunate to have a lot of diversity in our band family and that should be celebrated. While we have many differences, our love of music and each other transcends all of that to create a special band family.

This Week:

Monday (1/18) – no school

Tuesday (1/19) – Winterguard 4:00-7:00p; All-County Audition recording sessions 4:00-6:00p

Wednesday (1/20) – open

Thursday (1/21) – Winterguard 4:00-7:00p; All-County Audition recording sessions 4:00-6:00p

Friday (1/22) – final day to submit past due playing test videos on Canvas

Playing Tests PAST DUE

All playing tests for students in 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 6th, & 7th periods are past due at this point. For details about the playing tests (they are different for each class), please log into Canvas and look under “assignments” for your band class. You will submit all videos on Canvas. Emailed videos will not be accepted. This is the exact same procedure we used last quarter, but if you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to your section leader or ask me.

Late submissions are still being accepted, but 10 points will be deducted from the grade you earn for your submission. Even if it’s not perfect, please submit your video as any grade you receive will be much better than receiving a zero for not completing the assignment.

The final day to submit any past due playing test videos on Canvas is Friday January 22.

All-County Band Auditions

The final day to submit audition videos is January 23. I highly recommend that you start working on your recordings at least 1 week before the deadline so that you can get several good takes and choose your best one. I also recommend that you record your videos after a regular warm-up and not after a long practice period so that your chops are not tired.

This week we have two days after school for recording sessions if you would like to record in the band room using the Blue Yeti microphone. You must bring your own laptop. Recording sessions will be held on January 19 & 21 from 4:00-6:00pm in the band room. The sign-up sheet is on the band office door with specific appointment times (10 minute blocks). This is not a requirement. You may choose to record your audition at home, but I wanted to open up this opportunity to our students that would like to record with a higher quality microphone.

Solo & Ensemble Applications – PAST DUE

Solo & Ensemble applications were DUE the week before break (Monday, December 14) from all students in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd period. If you didn't get this in before the break, you currently have a zero for that grade in Focus. I will accept these late without penalty, but I need the ASAP so that I can complete our school's registration for the event. If you need a digital copy of the application, please email me (mcleimer@volusia.k12.fl.us) and I will send it to you.

This year Solo & Ensemble will be completely virtual. Students choosing to play for the judge can either pre-record their performance OR live-stream with the judge. Because of these changes, I am allowing ALL students to choose whether they want to perform for the judge (for a rating OR for comments only), perform for their class period, OR perform on a special evening recital at the end of February in the auditorium.

The last day to turn in your application and receive credit for this grade is Friday January 22.

Upcoming Important Dates

- January 23rd – All-County Audition videos DUE (Canvas)
- January 30th – Optional Pep Band Performance (more info soon)
- February 1st – Percussion after-school rehearsals resume
- February 2nd – Symphonic Band after-school rehearsals resume
- February 3rd – Wind Ensemble after-school rehearsals resume
- February 13th – 1st Winterguard Competition
- February 19-20 – NEW Solo & Ensemble dates
- February 25th – Solo & Ensemble Recital 7pm

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