

Happy New Year band family!

I hope that everyone has had a safe and enjoyable Winter Break. I have enjoyed sleeping in and spending extra time at home, but I have missed our band family tremendously and can't wait to get back into the swing of things. We have a lot to look forward to in 2021 and at the top of that list for me is making great music together with all of you.

This Week:

Monday (1/4) – No School; Playing Tests DUE on Canvas

Tuesday (1/5) –Winterguard 4:00-7:00pm

Wednesday (1/6) – open

Thursday (1/7) –Winterguard 4:00-7:00pm

Friday (1/8) – open

Playing Tests DUE Monday

Playing tests for students in 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 6th, & 7th periods are due by Monday at midnight. This is a huge extension from the original deadline of the Friday before break. Please make sure you get this taken care of on time. 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 the videos on Canvas as well. 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 will be accepted, but points will be deducted.

All-County Band Auditions

All-County Band audition registration is due this week for directors, so I need to collect information from those students that will be auditioning. Last year DeLand High School had the highest percentage of students selected for the band. I would like to continue this as well as have the largest number of students in the band this year. This is a great experience for the students that are selected, and I think it would be awesome if we could get even more of our students involved. All Wind Ensemble students have already been required to prepare the audition requirements, so why not go ahead and submit an audition? All students that audition for All-County Band will earn extra credit on their 2nd quarter playing test! 😊

If you are planning to audition, please complete this google form by the end of the school day on Wednesday January 6.

<https://forms.gle/aqPco3oMF7YX3Yf27>

You will also need to complete the participation contract and turn it into Ms. Leimer by Thursday January 7. Contracts will be available on the front table in the band room. VL students – if you need a digital copy of the contract please email me. There is a \$10 audition fee for each audition. The band will pay for your first audition as long as you actually complete the audition. If you DNA (register but don't complete the audition), you will be required to pay the band back

for the audition fee. If you would like to audition on more than one instrument, you will be expected to pay for the additional audition fees.

Auditions will be completed through a special All-County Band Canvas course. Students will record a video of their audition requirements and submit them by January 23rd. I will be sending you feedback on what you submit to me for your playing tests, so this gives you plenty of time to make corrections and improvements before the actual audition videos are due. The format will be the same as the playing test submissions – one video for each of the requirements (major scales, chromatic scale, and etude).

This year's clinician is Dr. Patrick Dunnigan – Director of Bands at Florida State University. I know that he is planning a great program that will be very enjoyable for our students to learn and perform.

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.

Winterguard

This week we will be measuring for costumes. We will measure during 5th period for those in the class and get everyone else taken care of at rehearsal. We need to place our costume order soon in order to have them in time. Please do not forget that there is a \$150 payment due by January 15 and the first competition is on February 13.

Upcoming Important Dates

- January 4th – 2nd Quarter playing tests DUE (1st, 2nd, & 3rd period classes)
- January 4th – Solo Transcription Project DUE (jazz band)
- January 6th – All-County registration form DUE (google form)
- January 7th – All-County contracts DUE (hard copy form with signatures)
- January 15th - \$150 Winterguard payment DUE
- January 23rd – All-County Audition videos DUE (Canvas)
- 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

#goband

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