

BAND ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MAR. 1 - 5

• Welcome our Student Teacher

Mr. Chris Langdon, a senior Music Education major at Campbell University, started his Student Teaching with us on Feb. 17. He'll be with us until early May. He's off to a great start.

• All-State Band auditions

Senior flutist Sam Barnes, senior clarinetist Tarah Cartee, senior trombonist Emily Guy and sophomore trombonist Michael McNeill will audition this Saturday for the North Carolina All-State Honors Bands. Please wish them luck as they represent Fuquay-Varina High School in these very competitive and prestigious auditions.

• Marching Band Orientation Meeting

We will hold our annual Marching Band Orientation meeting on Tuesday, April 20th from 7 - 8:30 PM in the FVHS Cafeteria.

If your child is thinking about being a part of the 2010 Marching Bengals, you should attend this meeting.

We will introduce the fall 2010 show program, provide calendar information, explain parent and student expectations and much more. We are also looking forward to another BOA trip as well as continuing our tradition of excellence. **We need at least one parent from each participating family to attend.**

• Festival Assessments past due

Thank you to everyone who has paid their Festival Assessment. Having those funds in the bank allows us to pay our expenses for MPA and to bring in top-notch guest instructors for our students.

If you have not yet paid, please do so immediately. About 80% of assessments have been paid. Checks should be made out to BBFV, put in a white envelope with your child's name and "Festival Assessment" on the outside and placed in the white box at the front of the bandroom.

Unpaid assessments will be added to your child's FVHS Fees Owed on Monday, March 1. Students with unpaid Fees Owed (for this or any other fee due to FVHS) cannot attend prom, receive a parking permit or diploma until fees have been paid in full.

• Pre-MPA Concert

We will hold our Pre-MPA Concert on the evening of Tuesday, March 2. Standard concert attire is required for students. Attire standards are listed in the Band Handbook.

Symphonic Band members need to be in their seat on-stage and ready to play at 6:25 PM. Please **do not** come to the stage any earlier than 6:15 PM so that our stage crew and percussion

can set the stage as quickly as possible. Their performance will begin at 7 PM and end before 8 PM. **Symphonic Band PERCUSSIONISTS need to be at school by 5:45 PM to move percussion equipment to the stage.**

Wind Ensemble members need to be in the band room to warm up at 7:30 PM. Their performance will begin at 8 PM and end around 9 PM. **Wind Ensemble PERCUSSIONISTS should plan to stay for about 30 minutes following their clinic to move percussion equipment back to the band room.**

Guest clinicians will work with each band for about 20 minutes following their performance. Parents are invited to stay and listen to this session. Students and parents are invited to arrive early or stay late to hear the other band perform, but are not required to do so.

• Sectionals with clinicians

We've had several guest instructors in to work with our students over the last week or so. The results have been exciting for me and the students. Upcoming sectionals with guest clinicians are listed on the band calendar. The better our kids get on their instruments, the more confident they become about their technique and musicianship and this shows in their work in class.

• Upcoming assignments

Upcoming assignments can be found at the band calendar at www.fvbb.com. Some assignments are graded. Others are not graded or given "weighted grades", but are used to keep students moving ahead so they can be prepared for MPA, tests or the end-of-semester exam. Unweighted grades will be listed in NCWISE, but won't affect the student's final grades.

You may wonder why I choose to use unweighted grades. These unweighted grades allow me and the students to see progress towards larger goals without penalty. Poor grades, whether weighted or unweighted, are a sign that additional work, practice or remediation is needed, but don't hurt a student's overall grade. Good grades let us know that things are going in the right direction.

• March Booster Meeting + MANDATORY Chicago Trip Parent Meeting

Our March Band Booster meeting will be held on Thursday, March 18th from 7 - 8:30 PM. There are several items on the agenda. The most important are:

- 1) Presentation of 2010-2011 budget to membership
- 2) Election of 2010-2011 officers
- 3) MANDATORY meeting for parents of students attending the Chicago trip

A proposed slate of officers was presented at last Thursday's Booster meeting. We hope to have this slate posted on the website very soon for your review. Voting on this slate plus nominations from the floor will be done at the March general meeting.

We will also discuss next year's budget. Please join us for an explanation and discussion of next year's proposed budget. The budget is presented in March and must sit for 30 days for member review. It will be voted on at the April meeting.

The Chicago trip information will be presented once all other business is completed. We will dismiss any parents not involved with the Chicago trip prior to starting the "Chicago" part of the meeting. We will discuss the final itinerary, what to pack, out-of-pocket expenses, contact info, student behavior expectations and more.

Matt Edwards
Director of Bands
Fuquay-Varina HS