

## ***BAND ANNOUNCEMENTS - MARCH 8 - 12***

- 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 is now posted at [www.fvbb.com](http://www.fvbb.com). Voting on this slate plus nominations from the floor will be done at the March general meeting.

**We will also present and 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.

- 2010-2011 Band Placement Tests

Placement for each year's bands is done based on a playing test. This year's placement test was handed out to students last Thursday. Details to know:

Tests must be recorded and submitted no later than Tuesday, March 23rd.

The placement test determines whether your child will be recommended for Symphonic Band or Wind Ensemble next year.

The placement test is worth a test grade. This is equivalent to a concert performance grade.

Complete instructions are given on the placement test packet.

Please contact me at [mfedwards@wcpss.net](mailto:mfedwards@wcpss.net) if you have questions.

- All-State Band audition results

Congratulations to the following students for earning seats in the prestigious North Carolina All-State Honors Band:

Samantha Barnes, 10th Chair flute, 11th-12th grade band

Tarah Cartee, 13th chair clarinet, 11th-12th grade band

Michael McNeill, 9th chair trombone, 9th-10th grade band

Each student earned this honor following a rigorous audition process that pitted

them against band students from across the state. Their performance places them among the top 15% of students statewide. They will rehearse for 3 days on the UNC-Chapel Hill campus with nationally-recognized conductors before presenting a concert in Memorial Hall on the afternoon of May 2nd.

It has been more than a decade since Fuquay-Varina has had three students in the All-State Band in the same year. This is a real tribute to the hard work and talent of our students.

- Pre-MPA Concert follow-up

Thank you to the parents and guests who attended our Pre-MPA concert. We hope you enjoyed what you hear, but please remind your children that there is still a lot of work to be done. I was also very pleased to see the number of parents and band members who stuck around to see the clinicians work with the bands. It's very gratifying to see so many parents take an active interest in their child's music education.

- MPA performance dates and times

Wind Ensemble - Wednesday, March 24 - 7:25 PM performance

Symphonic Band - Thursday, March 25 - 10:40 AM performance

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS ONLY THE PERFORMANCE TIME.** We will need extra time both before and after this time to load and unload busses and equipment, travel, warm-up, sight-read and so on. I will send home a full **PRINTED ITINERARY** with your child later this week and will post the itinerary on the website calendar.

- 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.

- Masterclasses 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](http://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.

Matt Edwards  
Director of Bands  
Fuquay-Varina HS