

W.T. Woodson Bands

Director Report 2/20/20

Indianapolis Trip

We are finalizing the itinerary for the trip. The final payment was due recently. Final reminders and invoices are going out early next week for the trip. We do our best to make sure these are accurate, but sometimes we make mistakes so please reach out if the amounts given to you are wrong. Our performance time is finalized at 9:00am on Friday, 3/15. We are departing Fairfax Wednesday just before 9am. We finalized our return time, and unfortunately it will be sometime around 4 in the morning on Sunday. We will also be sending out dress code and packing info early next week with the final itinerary. The students are doing REALLY well and all of music will blow everyone away.

VA Beach Trip

Info went out recently for the trip. We are unfortunately a little light on enrollment. We are going to re-assess the viability of the trip tomorrow based on enrollment by the end of the day Friday, so if you are waiting to turn in your permission slip and first payment please take care of that! We normally have a little more time, but as these numbers are very low and we need to make a final decision by the end of the week. The itinerary and permission slip we sent out via email week before last.

Kennedy Center info

Tickets are being handed out this evening, and Monday to folks that aren't here tonight. Students will need to leave around 1pm from school and miss 6th and 8th period that day. We must get there by 3, but since the buses need to be back in Fairfax at 2:15, we must leave extra early. Each group will have about an hour on stage to play and get used to the space, go through on and off procedures, and warm up/tune. After the warm up time, students will go to the changing areas and get dressed. Then a formal picture will be taken of each ensemble on stage with our photographer (which we hired for the event so that the parents could simply enjoy the show). Then students will have time to eat (more info to come here) before the show starts. The late start time is a KC decision, not ours. We will need a truck to come by Woodson that morning and grab our percussion equipment/tuba cases. We are sharing our percussion equipment with the other group sharing the concert with us and their "sound check" is in the mid-morning. That van will need to come back to WTW that night and unload equipment. The event is over and we are out-loaded by 10pm, so eta for return to Woodson for the equipment is around 10:30. We are taking buses with the students there but NOT taking buses home, so students are responsible for transportation home. Any additional ticket requests or discrepancies need to email Mr. Morgan ASAP.

All-VA auditions

We have 5 students auditioning for All-VA band this year. Those auditions are this weekend at JMU. Best of luck to all those folks! I know they will represent us all very well no matter the outcome. Results should be available early next week.

2020/2021 numbers

Our enrollment surveys that the Woodson and Frost bands do are all in. Our numbers preliminarily look to be in the upper 180's to low 190's. It remains to be seen how Music Theory may play into staffing decisions, but those decisions are being made in about 4 weeks based on what we were told. If that results in the school hiring some extra help for the band, I will let you all know. I'm very proud of the 4 consecutive years of growth in the numbers of the band and hope that trend continues!

Band Camp dates

While I have been given the football schedule for this fall, I do not yet have the full schedule mapped out. That will certainly be a top priority by the end of March so that everyone can make plans. However, band camp is slated to begin on

8/3 for leadership and 8/4 for everyone else. There will be some adjustments to the camp schedule to better work with the pre-planning schedule here at WTW, but that will likely reduce the hours of camp overall. More info next month when there is a little more bandwidth for marching band.

I can share the following:

- We have hired a design consultant who will choreograph the color guard work and also take lead in designing the overall show. She works with TJ and is VERY good at what she does; we are lucky to have her!
- We have chosen music and are piecing together a theme that fits the group. More details when things are finalized!
- We have hired a new music arranger and I'm excited to say that we will get a custom show for a very reasonable price. Yay!

Winter Guard update

Things have been going well overall. Some difficult in securing weekend space for longer periods of time. We are coming up on some scheduling roadblocks as tryouts for sports are starting next week. They have been unable to communicate a clear idea of what our schedule in the gym might be past this week. I am working with my AP directly instead of directly through activities to help and get space. We are going to need to start getting a few dates on the board for fall guard auditions so that we can properly advertise and schedule that with staff and students. More info to come on that.

Overall comments

All three large concert groups are progressing very well. I am lucky to teach such great students. The camp we had this past weekend with Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble was a huge success. I know a weekend doing band is a tough sell, but the kids made significant progress playing their music and were able to learn from a lot of great guests. Certainly a few speed bumps and things I learned doing the camp for the first time here, but a great first effort. Thanks for the support and help many of you for making that happen. Assessment is going to be upon us all soon! All the groups are set up to do a great job.

Dates to keep in mind

2/26 – Frost Pre-Assessment Concert (no jazz band 1 or 2 that night)

2/27 – Frost Symphonic Band clinic (with select members of Wind Ensemble)

3/2 – Pre-Assessment Concert (all bands)

3/5 – KC Performance (Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble)

3/7 – Assessment for Wind Ensemble (@ West Potomac HS, performance time 4pm, students report at 2:30pm NO BUSES THERE OR BACK)

3/11 – Wind Ensemble departs for Indy

3/13 – Wind Ensemble Indy Performance

3/18 – Concert Band assessment performance (@West Springfield HS 1:30)

3/19 – Symphonic Band Assessment (@West Springfield HS 12:30)

3/29 – Winter Guard Show and Tell preview performance

4/16-4/18 Spring Trip to VA Beach