

TJ Bands Info and FAQ

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The TJ Band Program is Comprehensive:

- 4 curricular ensembles: Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Percussion Ensemble and Symphonic Percussion. Jazz Ensemble offered co-curricular.
- Fall, Winter, Pre-Festival, and Spring concerts and year-end Jazz Cabaret
- A weekly Jazz 2 8th period lab group
- Marching band (TJMC) with full VMBC/BOA competition schedule
- Voluntary pep band trips to away football games
- Winter Drum Line and Color Guard with Atlantic Indoor Association (AIA) and Winter Guard International (WGI) competition schedules

The TJ Band Program is Successful:

- TJ is a consistent Virginia Honor Band for superior ratings in marching band and concert band.
- Symphonic Wind Ensemble was featured at the 2013 and 2017 National Concert Band Festival as one of the premiere concert groups in the country. Also performed at the 2014 and 2019 VMEA State Conference
- TJMC has won their class at the JMU Parade of Champions each of the past 5 times they have attended.
- TJMC is a Bands of America Regional Finalist – most recently in 2017, 2018 and 2019
- Over 35 TJ students were accepted into the 2020 District XI Symphonic Band and Concert Band.
- 14 band students were selected to the All-Virginia Band Event – the most of any school in the state.

The TJ Band Program is Well Supported:

- TJ Band Program is fully integrated into the TJ music program, collaborating with the orchestra, choral, and drama programs at school events
- The students take responsibility for developing esprit de corps, organizing their sections, and participating in fundraising to support the program
- TJ Band Boosters is an active organization with dedicated volunteers and solid financial footing to support all band activities.

For more information, visit: tjbands.org

How different is the TJ program from my base school?

It is the same! The TJ program is completely comprehensive and offers every opportunity that you would be afforded at your base school. Every ensemble is of the highest quality, and you will have the same great experiences and memories that you would have in any band program in the northern VA area.

How Do I Sign Up?

To enroll in the TJ band program, you simply need to select Band as your primary choice for elective in the fall. All incoming students need to do a placement session. Students are placed in the Symphonic Band by default, and also may audition for a spot in the Wind Ensemble (separate excerpt required). Both of these ensembles will be listed as Advanced Band on your schedule, and will satisfy your TJ Diploma Fine Arts credit during your first year of band. Audition info is in another document on tjbands.org – video submissions will need to happen with the unusual circumstances this year.

What about marching band?

TJMC runs during the fall months and is the most visible ensemble in the school. We perform all across the east coast, and have enjoyed great success in recent years. All winds and percussion must be signed up for curricular band. Colorguard members do not have to be enrolled in band (we highly encourage choir/orchestra members to join this group!). Even if you do not play an instrument that typically marches outside (oboe, bassoon) there is always a spot open somewhere in the ensemble for you. No marching experience is required for any member who wishes to join – all first year marchers are beginners at this! There will be much more info given out about TJMC once you have signed up for the course, or you have given the colorguard your information.

What if I don't currently play an instrument?

We accept beginners who have a knowledge of music reading in our Symphonic Percussion class. Piano and guitar players are wonderful for this! If you elect to try any other instrument for the first time as a freshman you would be placed in the symphonic band. Students who are going to be brand new to a wind instrument in the fall of 2020 are required to take private lessons over the summer so that they may be able to assimilate into the class. Please contact me directly at awforeman@fcps.edu if you are in this situation.

Can I try a different instrument at TJ?

If you are interested in switching to a new instrument it is allowed solely based on the needs of the ensemble. In recent past we have had Saxophones switch from Alto to another type, Clarinets to switch to Bass Clarinet, and Flutes to change to a brass instrument. The instrumentation of the band in the fall will determine the availability/necessity for switchers.