



# Mountain View High School Bands

2135 Mountain View Road • Stafford, Virginia 22556 • (540) 658-6840

*Douglas C. Armstrong, Director of Bands*

To: District XV Band Directors  
From: Doug Armstrong, District Auditions Host  
RE: All-District Band Auditions

We are looking forward to hosting the VBODA District 15 All-District High School auditions at Mountain View High School on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> of this year. As we work through the pre-registration and audition process, please let me know if I can help you or your students in any way.

I have enclosed all of the information you will need to get your students registered and prepared for the audition process. Please pass the following information to your students so that we may all enjoy a trouble-free day. I have included a second copy of student information which you may wish to post with your sign-up sheets.

- Student registration will be held in cafeteria/commons area
- Doors will open at 7:00 am
- Student Registration: begins at 7:30 am and ENDS at 9:30 am
- Students must be pre-registered by their directors by November 29th
- Students will register at the audition site to receive their audition number
- Audition numbers will be assigned sequentially, not randomly
- Directors/Judges meeting in the MVHS Chorus Room at 8:00 am
- Auditions will begin at 9:00 am
- The auditorium will be used as a holding area
- Students WILL NOT be allowed to play instruments or other noise-creating device in the auditorium – this includes sticks/pad!
- Students will be called from the auditorium and taken to warm-up rooms where they may begin playing
- Audition numbers will be called and posted in the auditorium and a satellite speaker will be in the cafeteria for those waiting in that area. Students will need to be in those areas to hear their audition number.
- Students are not to play their instruments in any area of the school other than the specified warm-up and audition rooms. Please advise them of this regulation. They will have a minimum of 20 minutes in a warm-up room as long as they are on-time when their audition number is called. If they miss their number, their warm-up time may be limited.
- No students are allowed outside of the Auditorium or commons area of the building unless they are warming up for their audition or going to the audition rooms.
- Students will need to keep their audition number with them to show as they enter the warm-up and audition room(s). A “sign-in” list will be created as they enter each room as a verification of audition numbers.
- All warm-up rooms and audition rooms are in the “academic wing” of MVHS. Students are only allowed to have their instrument and instrument accessories and their prepared music selection in that area of the building. A standard concert snare will be provided. Students auditioning on snare drum may bring their own snare drum for the audition if they so desire. They should practice quick set-up of their own equipment as time is limited in the audition room
- Mallet instruments available for the audition rooms will be Yamaha 3 ½ octave xylophone. There will be one in warm-up, the mallet audition room and the prepared room providing consistency for your students.
- Four Timpani (Yamaha) will be available. Timpani will be checked and balanced before the auditions! A separate set is also planned for the warm-up room.
- Percussion sticks and mallets WILL NOT be provided or loaned!
- “Unofficial” results will be posted in cafeteria as soon as they are available. Official results will be e-mailed to each participating director the week following the auditions.
- Concessions will be available from the Mountain View Band Boosters. A breakfast menu will be available when you arrive and lunch items will be available as the day goes on.
- Judges will receive all the coffee, water and soft drinks you care to consume, plus a free lunch compliments of the Band Boosters. Snacks are available as you need them – please feel comfortable asking for whatever you need.
- Please advise your students that all of our Stafford County schools are blanketed by security cameras, many of which are completely hidden from view. Any vandalism/misbehavior WILL be observed! (Big Brother is watching!)

*Home of the Wildcats*



# Mountain View High School Bands

2135 Mountain View Road • Stafford, Virginia 22556 • (540) 658-6840

Douglas C. Armstrong, Director of Bands

## Director Responsibilities

Be sure to read the pertinent sections of your VBODA Administrative Handbook (on the CD-ROM) regarding eligibility and responsibilities. Audition requirements are the same as for All-Virginia Band and are included in this packet. Please make this information available to your students. Additional responsibilities include:

1. Please advise your students of their eligibility and responsibilities.
2. Furnish each student with instructions and audition requirements (enclosed)
3. Compile your list of students auditioning in a spreadsheet with columns for "First", "Last" (names) "Instrument" and "School". Please send this list to me electronically at [armstrongdc@staffordschools.net](mailto:armstrongdc@staffordschools.net). I will reply via e-mail when I receive your list. If you do not receive a reply, please don't assume that I received the file. I would prefer Excel format, but can handle most any spreadsheet or delimited text format.
4. Pay the student registration fee or \$5.00 per student in advance (postmarked by November 29)

**Director's Registration:** Directors must show their current NAFME/MENC membership card or pay the \$111.00 Non-Member Fee.

**Student's Registration:** Students must be registered in advance by their director. Students will then sign-in at the registration tables (by instrument) in our commons area to receive their individual registration number. Numbers will be assigned sequentially (the first person will be #1, the second person #2, etc.). Students may not pick their registration number randomly from the list.

## Directors/Judges Information:

- **Directors/Judges will meet in the Chorus room at 8:00 am.** We will review judging assignments, give room assignments and distribute sight-reading material.
- Sight-reading has been "hired out" and is being written exclusively for these auditions. The examples will arrive sealed and the seal will not be broken until this meeting to ensure that no one has seen the material prior to the audition.
- Please try to bring a metronome and (at your discretion) a small tuner.
- I will send a list of judging responsibilities prior to the audition day so that you may review the particular scale and chromatic requirements for the instrument(s) you will judge.
- Pending available judges, the Flutes, Clarinets and Trumpets will have separate scale and sight-reading rooms. I will group smaller numbers together, such as Piccolo/Low Clarinets, Oboe/Bassoon, Tenor/Bari Sax, and Bass/Tenor Trombones.

## Audition Rooms:

- Auditions are held in classrooms. Each room will have a screen to separate the judges from the students. Each audition room will have a monitor (parent) who has been instructed to stay quiet and out of the way (by the door and not distracting to the student auditioning!) The monitor is in the room to relay any questions or make clarifications for the student.
- **Students may not talk in the audition room. They may be disqualified if they talk during the audition process. PLEASE finish the audition and put the scores earned, then clearly mark "Talked during audition" on the sheet.**
- **PLEASE do not use half points (7.5) in your scores unless absolutely necessary!**
- **A "0" score means no attempt was made to play the requested part of the audition. If they attempt, give at least a "1"!**
- There will be hall monitors responsible for checking audition numbers and keeping the hallways quiet.

## General Stuff:

- Band Parents (*our imposing looking "pit-crew" parents*) will be posted throughout the school to keep students out of audition and other "off-limits" areas. Please encourage your students to follow their instructions or risk disqualification.
- Please encourage your students to take advantage of the concessions available.
- Students are not to play their instruments in any area of the school other than the specified warm-up and audition areas. Please advise them of this regulation. They will have a minimum of 30 minutes in a warm-up room.

**Directions to Mountain View High School:** From I-95 Northbound, take exit 140, turn left at the bottom of the exit ramp. Follow Courthouse Road for several miles to a "T" intersection/stop light at Shelton Shop Rd. Turn left. Then turn right at the next stop light onto Mountain View Rd. Mountain View High School is approximately ½ miles ahead on the left.

***I'm sure I've missed something in compiling all of this. If I have, please let me know. If you have any questions, problems or concerns, feel free to e-mail me at [armstrongdc@staffordschools.net](mailto:armstrongdc@staffordschools.net)***

*Home of the Wildcats*