



UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL BAND

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And more!

From the Band Office

For the last two weeks, I've been frantically updating the "Accolades" page on the University Band website (which you can find at www.UHSband.com/ensembles/accolades.php) to record and celebrate all our students' accomplishments, which have been rolling in since the Winter Guard, Percussion Ensemble, and Indoor Wind Company have returned to a competitive circuit, and All County results have been released. Because of that, I've been *thinking a lot about our philosophy of competition*. You'll often hear us say things like, "Scores don't matter," "It's not about the numbers," and "We don't compete to beat another group, just to showcase what we've achieved." The thing is, all of that is actually true. At many of the events we are attending, the percussion and winds groups are the only ones in their class. This means there is no one against whom to compete, and the score is practically meaningless. To be honest, I've been enjoying that. We still get what I view as the main benefits of a competitive performance: an enthusiastic audience that's there just to see you, and a structured environment where greatness is demanded in order to play the game. Competition as rivalry leads to pride, and we can do without that. Competition as a framework that encourages excellence, however, if approached with grace and humility, has always been one of the great drivers of human achievement, and that's an educational experience for everyone involved.

FFCC University I

Last Saturday, we got to host our first large-scale event in over a year as we welcomed forty different schools on campus (all in an approved and regulated manner, of course) for our FFCC (Florida Federation of Color Guards Circuit) regional. Our own groups were able to participate in the event, and did so to great success: the Winter Guard earned third place in their class, the Percussion Ensemble was named Scholastic Open Champion, and the Indoor Wind Company won the Scholastic A Class Championship with the highest wind score across the state for that week. Congratulations to all our student performers on a great showing!

The regional was also a great fundraiser for our program that helps us put out a quality product while keeping our fees as low as they are.

A huge thank you must go out to all the parents and alumni who volunteered their time and energy to make the event a success. If I forget anyone, please forgive me, but here we go: Thank you to Mary Ambrose, Chezzar Jon Apolinario, John Bailey, Kevin Barnes, Spencer Briscoe, Minerva Caquimbo, Liz Dehalt,

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Scott and Anna Elias, Jasmine Gonzalez, Jose Gonzalez, Anna Gonzalez, Jackie Gotham, Alexandra Hadley, Karen Jaramillo-Vasconez, Agustina Jimenez, Christian and Tracy Lau, Cristina Maas, Nicholas Martucci, Maximillian Palacio, Karol Pedrero, Martin and Kerry Purmensky, Felix Rivera, Tracy Thatcher, Melanie Williams, and everyone else who was able to help out! We received many compliments about the smooth and efficient running of the show.

FBA Solo & Ensemble

Several University Band students participated in the FBA Solo & Ensemble Festival this weekend, earning twenty-nine "superior" ratings, the highest possible mark. Congratulations to all our students who participated!

All County Band

The OCPS All County Band Festival takes place this weekend, with our 9/10 grade students performing on Friday and our 11/12 students on Saturday. Students who made it were listed in Newsletter 16. If you have a student in the group and will be attending the concert, you must pre-register below:

9/10 Band: <https://forms.gle/gvC8o5xyt2QaM84f8>

11/12 Band: <https://forms.gle/fNgSxn85aFni3ESGA>

FFCC Lake Howell

The Winter Guard will be performing this weekend at Oviedo High School at 4:05 PM. It looks like a few tickets are still available for Flight 4 if you would like to go support them!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ffcc-oviedo-high-school-competition-flight-4-class-aa-a-tickets-142792523281>

Volunteering @ FFCC University II

We are going to be doing it all again on Saturday, March 13, for our second FFCC regional. We are the only school in the circuit that was invited to host two shows, and I know we will once again pull off a quality event. To do that, of course, we once again need your help! Please sign up for a volunteer position using the link below:

http://www.uhsband.com/parents/portal/signup/view_positions.php?eventID=67

Remember that positions are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis and you will receive an email confirmation (check to make sure emails from the University Band are not going to your spam folder) if you are selected for that position.

Ensemble Auditions

The band website mistakenly said that auditions were due March 1. The correct date is April 15. Please visit the auditions page at <http://www.UHSband.com/ensembles/auditions.php> for updated information.

Thank you!

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact myself or Mr. Willis and we will do our best to make sure you have everything you need.



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Jeff Willis
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