

Handbook for FCA Falcon Bands



A year-long academic elective class

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Band Website: <http://teachers.stjohns.k12.fl.us/zentz-l/band/>

Concert Band, Symphonic Band and **Jazz Ensemble** are performance-based instrumental ensembles for experienced players. **Beginning Band** provides entry-level instruction on flute, oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba, and percussion. **Jazz Ensemble** is by invitation and students must play in one of the other bands in addition to Jazz Ensemble. The band program provides students the opportunity to perform music from a wide range of styles. The content is designed to challenge the students' skill level and promote the development of musicianship. Music theory, language arts, math, reading, writing, and history are woven into the curriculum through the study of quality literature and the elements of music. Learning goals are derived from the [National Standard for Music Education](#) and the St Johns County Curriculum Maps for middle school band.

Student Goals

- Develop a love for musical performance and an appreciation of music as an art form
- Build technical aspects of music performance on chosen instrument
- Learn the basic concepts of music theory and vocabulary
- Learn steadfast self-discipline and make a commitment to musical excellence
- Participate in a musical "community" and contribute to the success of the ensemble
- Through the art of music, become more responsive to the world around them

Student Expectations

- Active, respectful participation in class, positive attitude and appropriate rehearsal etiquette
- Regular practice routine – band "homework" – including listening exercises
- Proficiency in assigned music, scales, and exercises
- Helpful support of other band members
- Respect for fellow classmates and their equipment
- Follow the FCA Way
- Honor the opportunity to learn and make music

Performances

There will be approximately THREE required performances, all specified well in advance via website, email, social media, and calendar. Every member is vitally important to the band, and we need everyone present when we perform. Performances will count as Summative Assessments. Most performances will take place on campus at FCA.

Band Books

All band students will be provided with at least one method book as part of their “band fee”. The band director will provide all instructional materials for all the bands. Lost books will need to be replaced at a cost of \$10 each.

Band Music

Music will be provided from the FCA Music Library at no charge. A replacement fee will be charged for music and binders that are lost. Band arrangements for middle school are expensive. PLEASE KEEP UP WITH YOUR BINDER! It is your “text book”. There will be occasional “binder checks” for a formative grade.

Band Fee

Our band program operates on a budget handled by the band director and supported by the Band Booster Organization. The school district provides a very small amount of our operating expense. Therefore, we depend on the band families to contribute a band fee provide the band with the many things necessary for our success. The band fee covers purchases of printed music, binders, folders, copying expenses, tools, supplies, educational materials, uniform shirts, awards, technology, transportation, band professional organization fees (FBA and FSMA), and director’s professional development. The band fee is \$150/year, and is due by October 1 of the school year. Fundraising will be kept to a minimum and will benefit the total band program. No student will be denied the opportunity to participate in band because of inability to pay the band fee. Please contact the director if you desire a payment plan or payment waiver.

Uniforms

Our INFORMAL uniform is the official blue band t-shirt (provided by the band) with blue jeans and comfortable shoes. A more formal uniform may be used for Music Performance Assessment (MPA), including an embroidered band polo shirt.

GRADING OVERVIEW

70% - Performance tests in class, written tests

30% - Musician responsibilities and Rehearsal etiquette

Performance Tests/ Written Tests – 70%

Includes scales and exercises and any assigned individual playing tests. Attendance at performances is required.

Musician Responsibilities and Rehearsal Etiquette – 30%

Daily preparedness, folder checks, being on time, putting belongings away in the proper place. Forgetting an instrument or folder will lower this portion of the grade 5 points each time. Sustained focused attention, respect, and discipline are required during all rehearsals. Grade will be lowered 5 points each time these expectations are not met.

Practice Requirements

Because we have so many students at Freedom Crossing Academy who are bikers/walkers and bus riders, it can be difficult to get the instrument home on a regular basis for practice. This is why we incorporate the practice known as the “Flipped Classroom”. This teaching style moves practicing the instrument, traditionally done at home, into the daily classroom lessons. With a flipped classroom, students watch instructional videos, listen to their band music online, or do written assignments at home, and do most of their instrument practicing in the classroom under the guidance of the expert teacher. Of course, at home practice is encouraged for those who can!

Band Class Procedures

Rehearsals are held during band class with emphasis on developing strong musicianship through working on performance fundamentals, technique, skill, musical style and interpretation, and theoretical essentials. We have much to accomplish during each class period to reach our potential. Respect for this time is expected!

1. Be on time and prepared. Slow down and be respectful of the expensive instruments and equipment in the room.
2. Exercise self-discipline in your voice level, and don't talk during the rehearsal. It's time to listen and learn.
3. Show respect and courtesy; treat others as you would like to be treated.
4. Have the music binder ready each day. Keep it organized. It is your “textbook”.
5. Listen carefully at all times during the rehearsal. If you are talking, you cannot listen carefully.
6. Keep your binder, your instrument, and the band room neat and clean – this is our band “home”. Show PRIDE!
7. No food or drink is allowed in the band room. Water bottles with lids are OK. No gum, please.
8. Rehearse as if you were performing a concert. Sloppy practice does NOT make progress!

Behavior Expectations

Students are expected to follow the FCA Way. “Focused on Safety, Committed to Responsibility, Always Respectful!” The school's LiveSchool point system will be used in the band program. FCA is a gum-free school. Chewing gum can be dangerous while playing a wind instrument.

PLAYING TESTS

Students will be assigned scales and exercises that will be played during class individually. A grade will be assigned for each playing test according to the band rubric.