

All-County Band Auditions

1) *What is the All-County Band?*

The All-County Band is a process where students audition to represent their school in a band made up of the best students in Johnston County! If they make the band, they get to rehearse with a bunch of other amazing musicians and prepare a concert with a nationally acclaimed clinician.

2) *What is the Audition Process?*

After school on Tuesday, Mr. Meade will drive a bus from West to Smithfield Selma (SSS) High school where auditions will be held. **Students can travel separately to the audition.** Upon arrival, students will go to the cafeteria and sign-in, where they'll get an audition number. Auditions begin between 4pm-4:30pm. Students are called in small groups at a time to wait in the hall way to perform their scales, solo and sightread for a judge who is behind a curtain.

Students can be picked up from SSS after they are done (PREFERRED) OR can wait until auditions are complete for all students, at which point they'll be brought back to West Johnston High School. Generally, this is around 8:30pm, but varies greatly from year-to-year.

3) *When is the Clinic and Concert being held?*

Normally the clinic for the band is held on the Monday evening of Thanksgiving Break, followed by all-day rehearsal on Tuesday with the concert on Tuesday night. This year though, that Monday and Tuesday were deemed wellness days and with school buildings closed we cannot host the clinic/concert during those days. The other directors and I are working on when this clinic can move to - we hope to have an announcement out on this in the next week.

4) *Anything else different about this year?*

YES!! For the first time, we have received funding for TWO All-county bands - an all-county Wind Ensemble and an all-county Symphonic Band! We have two clinicians lined up (one for each group) and this greatly increases the chances of your student making a group!

5) *What happens if my student doesn't make it?*

That's ok! Simply working on the audition material and going through the process makes them a better performer and sets them up for success in future auditions of any kind!

6) *Is trying out for the All-County Band required at West Johnston?*

NO. If your student is in wind ensemble, they all have been working on the music, and can either audition for the band or perform in class for their peers. Symphonic Band students did not work on the music in designated times in class but were encouraged to audition and performed in class.

7) *How is All-District different from All-County?*

The All-District Band is a similar concept but is for all students in the Southeast District of the state. 9-10 Students play the same music/scales as the All-County band, while Grade 11-12 students prepare a slighter harder solo and a few more scales. Although the assumption from some students is that All-District is harder to make, Johnston County has excellent band programs and the 9-10/11-12 Split also helps make all-district actually easier on some instruments... it really depends on the year and the students who audition!

Auditions are also later - Saturday, January 8th this year. If students make certain top chairs on each instrument at All-District, they become All-State Audition eligible, which allows them to audition for the All-State Band (Auditions in March, Clinic in late April/early May). Making any of these ensembles is an honor, but the All-State Band is particularly prestigious.

8) *Can my student audition for All-District Band if they did not make/audition for the all-county band?*

All-County is a completely separate process from All-District. You can audition for either one or both. Most students who audition for one end up doing both, but not all do.