

# **VBODA**

## **District VII Handbook**



**Updated Spring 2022**

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## Introduction

Several outstanding educational opportunities are available for students and band directors through the Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association (VBODA), a branch of the Virginia Music Educators Association (VMEA). District events include All-District Band Auditions, District Concert Assessment, and Solo and Ensemble Assessment. State events include State Marching Assessment, All-Virginia Band & Orchestra Auditions, All-Virginia Band and Orchestra, and the State VMEA Convention and In-Service.

VMEA has divided the state into 16 districts. Southwest Virginia is District VII and consists of the cities of Bristol, Galax, and Norton and the counties of Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Dickenson, Giles, Grayson, Lee, Pulaski, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, and Wythe.

Many aspects of district-level events are set by the state and are not controllable by the individual district. This **District VII Handbook** provides information about the policies and procedures that are decided at the district level. While casual references may be made to state rules, this is not meant to replace or supersede the state administrative handbook. Much information about local and state band events is available on the Internet at [www.vboda.org](http://www.vboda.org) (state) and [www.vboda7.org](http://www.vboda7.org) (Dist. VII). These sites are the only source for important news and the latest information in many situations. To run a successful event, directors who host a district event must refer to the [State Event Manual](#).

## Membership

All band directors, choir directors, & music teachers are strongly encouraged to become members of NAFME (National Association for Music Education). Dues cover 12 months, and rates are set annually. As of 2021, the fee is \$130.00. Band directors must belong to NAFME or pay the non-member fee to participate in any district or state band event; this includes all students of that director. The non-member fee is charged for every event, so membership is necessary. Membership includes VMEA Notes, Music Educators Journal, and Teaching Music subscriptions. More information is available at: <http://musiced.nafme.org/join/>

## VBODA Handbook & Graded Music List

All band directors who are members of NAFME are automatically members of the Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association. NAFME membership grants you access to the VBODA site, state handbook, and graded music lists.

## VBODA Participation Fees

The payment of the school participation fee is required to participate in Concert Assessment, Marching Assessment, District Band Audition, District Band Event, or Solo and Ensemble Assessment. VBODA advises that school participation fees are paid no later than November 1 of each school year. If a group participates in Marching Assessment, the participation fee must be paid no later than October 1 of each school year. To see the list of schools that have paid the current participation fee or obtain an order form for the handbook, go to:

<https://www.vboda.org/index.php/article-display/465-participation-fee-2020.html>

## All-District Band Auditions

District VII auditions are traditionally held on the 2nd Saturday in December at John S. Battle High School in Bristol, VA. The inclement weather date is the 1st or 2nd Saturday in January at the same location. If inclement weather necessitates a schedule change or postponement, the District Chairman or Event Chairman will contact the district via email. On the day of auditions, registration opens at 8:30 am and closes at Noon for Junior High and 3:00 for Senior High. There will be a mandatory meeting for all band directors at 8:30 a.m. Please see our [audition webpage](#) for additional information.

Audition pre-registration is online and will be available two weeks before the event. Directors will be emailed the link to the pre-registration by the event host. Upon arrival at the audition site, students will pay (\$10.00) at the registration and be given an audition number in random order. Band directors are to complete the director's registration material online and present their NAFME Credentials and proof of VBODA Participation Fees payments upon request of the District Chairman.

### **Audition Policies:**

1. Students must audition on one instrument, with percussion auditioning on snare drum, mallets, & timpani. **(Exceptions: 9<sup>th</sup> graders may audition on one instrument for Junior and a different one for Senior).** Any student disobeying this rule will have their results on all tryout sheets voided and disqualified. Ninth-grade students may audition for both junior and senior bands. If students make both bands, they will be placed in the senior group. Students may only participate in one district band.

2. Should a student be selected for the junior district band and an alternate for the senior band, that student will be removed from the senior high list seven days before the senior event.

3. District VII does not hold separate auditions for piccolo, Eb soprano clarinet, or bass trombone. We may take one additional student to audition for All Virginia auditions from the flute, Bb clarinet, and tenor trombone sections. Starting with the first chair player, each flute, Bb clarinet, and trombone player will be asked if they want to audition on piccolo, Eb clarinet, or bass trombone, respectively. If they decline, the question will be asked to the next line until someone accepts. Designated students must audition on piccolo, Eb soprano, or bass trombone.

4. To ensure fairness, all judges will be behind a screen. Students are not permitted to talk. The student must communicate to the judges through the room monitor if needed. The judges should write “disqualified for talking” on the score sheets if a student talks.

### **Audition Procedures:**

1. Students are to perform the following in an audition:
  - a. **Wind Auditions** consist of performing two major scales (20 points), a chromatic scale (20 points), and the performance of a sight-reading example (60 points). Students will receive 30 seconds to review the sight-reading example. Then, eight clicks from the tempo will be given, and the sightreading will be performed. All scales (major & chromatic) will be performed from memory in the audition. District VII Band Auditions DO NOT use a prepared piece selection.
  - b. **Percussion Auditions** consist of a Snare Drum Audition, a Mallet Audition, & a Timpani Audition.
    - i. A Snare Drum Audition consists of a performance of the following: The long roll (20 Points), 2 of the N.A.R.D. Rudiments (20 points) (Junior rudiments are chosen from the first 13 N.A.R.D. Rudiments. Senior rudiments are chosen from all 26 N.A.R.D. Rudiments.), and Sight-reading (60 points). Students will receive 30 seconds to review the sight-reading example. Then, eight clicks from the tempo will be given, and the sightreading will be performed. District VII Band Auditions DO NOT use a prepared piece selection.
    - ii. A Mallet Audition consists of playing 2 Major Scales (20 points), the Chromatic Scale (20 points) and sight-reading (60 points). Students will receive 30 seconds to review the sight-reading example. Then, eight clicks from the tempo will be given, and the sightreading will be performed. All scales (major & chromatic) must be memorized. District VII Band Auditions DO NOT use a prepared piece selection.
    - iii. A Timpani Audition Consists of tuning the timpani and sightreading. Students will have 45 seconds to study *and* tune (use a pitch pipe). At the end of the 45 seconds, tuning will be checked by playing a quarter note on each drum. Then, eight clicks from the tempo will

be given, and the sightreading will be performed. 20 points for tuning, 20 points for technique, and 60 points for sight-reading. District VII Band Auditions DO NOT use a prepared piece selection.

2. All Directors should bring a tuner (to verify scale pitches) and a metronome to give tempos for scales, chromatic, & sight-reading.
3. Before starting the auditions, the judges should examine the sight-reading examples and assure that each example is marked with starting and stopping points and metronome markings for each sight-reading example.
4. Judges will follow the provided script.
5. Refer to the District VII site (<https://vboda7.org/all-district/>) to locate Junior & Senior Audition Requirements.
6. Students have been instructed not to talk in the audition room. There should be uniformity among all judges. Terms for disqualifications are any student who speaks, without permission from the room monitor, while in the audition room. Your guide should communicate any questions or comments the student might have.
7. Students that miss their audition space will be dealt with at the discretion of the audition chairman. (Any student who had registered but was not present to audition when registration was closed, and the judges have heard all students known to be waiting to audition will forfeit their opportunity to audition.)
8. Suppose the judges for a particular section feel that the quality of those auditioning is inadequate for the level of music that will be performed. In that case, they may recommend to the audition committee that a lesser number of that instrument be in an ensemble/band. The final decisions will be left to the audition committee.
9. The head judge for each room will keep a log of each judge's score for each audition. The judges are to discuss each audition and agree on the total score. The log should be used as a guide to compare the auditions throughout the day.
10. Upon completion of the audition, each judge must verify that all scores are accurately entered into the audition suite. Judge verification will assist in the overall verification process immensely.

## All-District Band Event

There will be two bands (a Symphonic Band and a Concert Band) for Junior and Senior levels. Instrumentation will be the same as the All-State Concert Band instrumentation (See Section VIII #7 VBODA Administrative Handbook). Instrumentation for the Junior High Band will follow the Senior High Bands' instrumentation. Instrumentation for the two bands may be divided to balance instrumentation at the discretion of the audition committee (District Chairman & Audition Chairman).

Junior & Senior Band Event will be a two-day event, traditionally the first weekend of February. The selection of District Band Clinicians will be left to the discretion of the District Chairman or the District Band Event Host. Guest Clinicians will be secured by a selected committee or Event Host. The host will set deadlines for all paperwork. Directors should notify the host or designee as soon as possible of students who will not attend the event so that alternates may be called. Alternates will not be contacted after a time specified by the chairman or the host.

Discipline problems will be dealt with by one of the following: The host, chairman, the guest clinician, or the students' band directors. Students may be moved to the end of the section or sent home immediately if needed.

The District Chairman will designate a time and date for a District VII Directors Meeting at the combined event. The host will set the practice schedule, and the District Chairman will approve it.

The Event Host should go to <https://www.vmea.com/index.php/resources/event-chairing-hosting> to review the policy manual for hosting events.

If a school has students who auditioned for All-District, yet none were selected, that director may select one student who auditioned to represent that school. This student will participate as a member of the appropriate concert band at the end of the section. The individual director's responsibility will be to notify the host or designee when this situation arises.

**Student Attendance & Responsibility:** Once a student commits to participating in the District Band Event, they understand that they must fully participate in the schedule of the event and participate in the designated seat time (all rehearsals and performance), and not request to exit the event to participate in another event. District 7 Band defines seat time as 100% attendance at all rehearsals and performances. The student will choose to participate or drop out of the district band event if a conflict arises. An exemption for illness or death in the family may be requested with the district chairman

requesting a verified excuse by a doctor or death in the family verified by the director and approved by the instrumental representative.

All Virginia Auditions Eligibility will follow those outlined in the VBODA Handbook; Part 7: Section 2.

## **District Concert Assessment**

District Concert Assessment will be in March to coincide with the VMEA calendar. The Concert Assessment locations will be booked year to year.

Adjudicators will be selected by the District Chairman or the Event Host and secured by a selected committee or person.

Participating directors and the host should review all rules and regulations posted in the VBODA Handbook (Section IV).

Bands in our District may elect to prepare three graded pieces (Option 1) in the state handbook or may choose to play two graded pieces and sight read (Option 2).

Bands must perform a warm-up march as specified in the state handbook. This march will be adjudicated.

The host will email other instructions.

The Event Host should go to <https://www.vmea.com/index.php/resources/event-chairing-hosting> to review the policy manual for hosting events.

## **Solo and Ensemble Assessment**

Solo and Ensemble will be hosted in the spring by a selected school within each of the following areas:

AREA I: Buchanan, Lee, Wise, Scott, Dickenson, Tazewell, and Norton.

AREA II: Washington, Bristol, Smyth, and Russell.

AREA III: Wythe, Bland, Carroll, Giles, Galax, Pulaski, and Grayson.

Each area should host a Solo & Ensemble Event. If your area does not offer a Solo & Ensemble Assessment, you may request to attend an alternate area with the approval of the Event Host.



The host school may select an appropriate date.

The Event Host for Solo and Ensemble should email all important information to all schools in the area/district.

See the State Handbook for more information.

The Event Host should go to <https://www.vmea.com/index.php/resources/event-chairing-hosting> to review the policy manual for hosting events.

## District VII Calendar

The state sets many District VII dates. All event dates must be submitted to the VMEA State Executive each year. The following dates are the typical district and state band events. **It is highly recommended that you share our district calendar with your school athletic director and principal once the calendar has been sent to you at the beginning of each school year.**

- State Marching Assessment – last two weekends of October
- State Convention – Thursday through Saturday, the week before Thanksgiving
- All-District Auditions – 2nd Saturday in December
- Snow date for auditions – 1st (or 2nd) Saturday in January
- \*Junior All-District Band – 1 week before Sr. District (unless combined with Senior)
- \*Senior All-District Band – 1st weekend in Feb. (could be the weekend of Jan. 31 and Feb. 1)
- Snow date for Junior – 2nd weekend in February
- Snow date for Senior – 3rd weekend in February
- All Virginia Auditions – last Saturday of February
- Concert Assessment – any weekday in March that does not conflict with District Choral Assessment
- All Virginia Band & Orchestra Event - early April, but not the week before or after Easter
- Solo & Ensemble Assessment – usually three sites in April or May (see the section on Solo & Ensemble)

\* Plans are underway to continue using the Virginia Highlands Higher Education Center as the location for the Combined District Band Event.

## **Other Useful Information:**

Always remember to ASK questions. Your District Chairman and Event Chairs are willing to assist you with any of your needs, as are other veteran directors.

This section is a work in progress and will periodically have updates added.

## Approved Motions

- Motion: Unofficial results will be posted on the day of the event. Official results will be published in a timely manner on the district website. Official results are final. Motion passed on an unknown date.
- Motion: Each school should bring one chaperone to help with District Auditions.—1/30/99
- Motion: Students will receive a score of zero for playing the incorrect scale. Clarification: A zero, only the wrong scale. Motion Passed 01/1999.
- Motion: E Flat Clarinet dropped from the registration sheet. 02/2000
- Motion: Start Junior and Senior District Concerts at 6:00 PM unless inclement weather poses a threat. 2/4/00
- Motion: Dispense with the contracting of a photographer for pictures for Jr. and Sr. All-District. 2/4/00
- Motion: To ensure the accuracy of final results, judges will verify the scores before leaving the site. Motion passed ?.
- Motion: To raise the audition fee from \$5.00 to \$10.00 in 2004 auditions. Motion passed 02/2003.
- Motion: Sr. District Clinic would be made upon the 3rd weekend of February as long as it does not conflict with All-State Auditions. Motion Passed 03/2003.
- Motion: Implement a snow schedule starting 3 hours late with district events during inclement weather. Motion passed 01/2004.
- Motion: To have concert time for Jr. All-District Band no later than 5:00 PM. 02/2005
- Motion: Allow 9th graders to pay one fee to audition for Junior & Senior. Motion passed 02/2005.
- Motion: combine the Junior & Senior District Band Events into one weekend. Motion passed 02/2005.

- Motion: adjust the Junior Alto Saxophone chromatic requirement to C-C (two octaves). Motion passed 01/2008
- Motion: adjust the Junior Bb Clarinet chromatic requirement to Low E to High C (two octaves & a sixth). Motion passed 01/2008.
- Motion: to adjust the Junior Flute chromatic requirement to Low C to High G (two octaves and a fifth). Motion passed 01/2008.
- Motion: to follow VBODA guidelines that follow the structure to obtain guest conductors for All-District Band. Motion passed 02/2009.
- Motion: to change the language from “Festival” to “Assessment.” Motion passed 02/2012.
- Motion: to eliminate Alto Clarinet from the audition list for District VII. Motion passed 02/2014.
- Motion: to expand Junior Alto Saxophone section from 4 to 6. Motion passed 02/2014.
- Motion: to follow All-State Audition requirements for Percussion minus the Prepared Piece. Motion passed 02/2014.
- Motion: to suspend the Commission Project until further notice. Motion passed 02/2014.
- Motion: for “scales for senior district winds to align with All-State auditions. Motion passed 02/2015.
- Motion: align Junior High major scales to the same tempo as the Senior High major scales, at quarter note equals 100 bpm, with a metronome. The pattern is still “quarter, eighth.” 02/2017.
- Motion: to approve honorarium for \$500. Gary Skeen seconded. Motion passes 02/2017.
- Motion: To change the tempo for senior scales to “a minimum of 120 bpm” and tempo for junior scales to a “minimum of 100 bpm.” All scales may be faster than the minimum metronome marking but must be performed in a quarter/eighth pattern with the articulation of slurred up and tongue down. Motion passes 02/2022.