

August 8, 2019

Dear School Administrator or Music Director,

On behalf of the Old Dominion Association of Church Schools, I would like to invite you and your students to participate in the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Band and Choir Festival on November 21-22, 2019. Over the past two decades, the festival has proven its worth to more than one thousand Christian school students by providing them with a quality performance atmosphere, improving their ensemble skills, placing them under the leadership of high-caliber Christian conductors, and facilitating an enjoyable time forging friendships with students from other Christian schools.

The symphonic band will be conducted by **Mr. Eric Woods**, one of the foremost Christian school band educators in the country. **Capt. Joel DuBois**, who has served both domestically and overseas as a conductor in the U.S. Army, will conduct the festival choir. The concert band will be conducted by **Mrs. Lois Whitlock**, the music director at Bethel Christian School in Hampton whose ensembles have won first place multiple times in the AACS National Competition. Each conductor has selected quality repertoire from sacred, classical, and folk genres to help your students develop their talents.

The festival will be held at Landmark Christian School in Richmond. After meeting the conductors at 6 PM on Thursday, students will rehearse that evening and throughout the day on Friday in preparation for a concert at 7 PM on Friday. Several motels are near the campus, and the academy can accommodate groups wishing to stay in the facilities. Contact the Landmark Christian School office at (804) 643-7711 for more information about lodging.

Woodwind, brass, and percussion instrumentalists in grades 7-12 with two or more years of playing experience are invited to participate in one of two bands. Instrumental students wishing to audition for seating in the symphonic band will be scored on their performance of scales and repertoire; all auditions must be recorded by a band director or school official and be submitted by September 30. Players who do not audition will be automatically placed in the concert band. Please contact me through the Valley Baptist Christian School office, (540) 984-3665, to obtain audition information.

Choral students in grades 9-12 are invited to participate in the choral track. Singers must be able to hold pitch; they must either read their vocal line with accuracy or assimilate their part quickly. Choral participants do not need to audition.

Several forms are available on the website to help you manage your school's registration. Registrations sent by September 30 will be \$35 per student; registrations sent after September 30 will be \$40 per student. Please complete the school registration form and write one check payable to ODACS, then mail them to ODACS Band and Choir Festival, 3131 Valor Court, Broadway, VA, 22815.

I encourage you to participate in this year's festival. Students and directors alike view this as a highlight of the school year. Please let me know if you have any other questions.

Mr. Matt Smith  
ODACS Band Directors' Association President