BOARD MEMBERS

Tina Certain
Thomas Vu
Sarah Rockwell, Ph.D.
Leanetta McNealy, Ph.D.
Janine Plavac

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Kamela Patton, Superintendent

Alachua County Public Schools

District Office
620 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida
32601-5498

www.sbac.edu
(352) 955-7300

Mission Statement: We are committed to the success of every student!

An 'A-rated' District

NEWS RELEASE

For more information, contact:
Jackie Johnson/(352) 955-7545

For Immediate Release

Buchholz High School Band selected to perform at prestigious festivals

The Buchholz High School Band, under the direction of conductor Noah Graben, has earned two prestigious invitations. The Buchholz Wind Symphony was the high school band selected to perform at the Florida Music Educators Association (FMEA) President's Concert January 14th, 2026 in the Tampa Bay Convention Center. The Buchholz Wind Symphony will perform in New York City's Carnegie Hall as part of the National Band and Orchestra Festival April 3rd, 2026.

The FMEA Professional Learning Conference is one of the largest music education professional learning events in the United States. In addition to approximately 250 clinical sessions, the FMEA hosts the Florida All-State Ensembles featuring the state's top elementary, middle, and high school musicians. The annual conference is attended by more than 10,000 people, including K-12 music teachers, school district music supervisors, college students, college music teachers & professors, and school administrators. The FMEA President's Concert features one choir, one orchestra, and one band from the state of Florida. These ensembles represent the finest music programs in Florida. The Buchholz Wind Symphony was selected based on a blind recorded audition to be FMEA's chosen band for the 2025-26 annual convention..

Carnegie Hall, in Manhattan, New York City, is often considered one of the world's most prestigious concert halls. The National Band and Orchestra Festival encourages high school bands and orchestras to submit recordings and apply for a spot in the annual spring festival. Selected ensembles earn the opportunity to perform at Carnegie Hall and work with some of the top conductors in the nation.

"These are outstanding achievements for a community that goes above and beyond," said Noah Graben, who has led the band program at Buchholz High School since 2020. "The Buchholz Band Program has a long-standing history of high achievement and national recognition. The students, staff, and community have continued to uphold a standard of excellence. The students should be commended for their work and product."

"These students have earned the opportunity to perform on some of the biggest stages possible," said Graben.

The Buchholz Band is currently engaging in fundraising to assist with the cost of travel. Community members and supporters are encouraged to get involved and help ensure that students are adequately supported.

For more information about supporting the Buchholz Band, please visit buchholzband.com or contact grabennc@alachuaschools.net