

# **Volunteer High School Band**



## **Student Handbook 2007-2008**

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## **Statement of Purpose**

At Volunteer High School, we strongly believe that music has the ability to enrich every person's life in unique and powerful ways. Thus, our primary goal is to foster the development of a life-long relationship with music in every student. Whether our students go on to be symphony musicians, doctors who play in a community band or orchestra one night a week, or simply music fans, our goal is for them to have a love and appreciation of music and music-making.

Beyond the purely musical goals of the program, we also aim to develop student's interpersonal and intrapersonal skills. Teamwork is a requirement for both the concert and marching band. There are no "second-string" players in the band. Instead, each individual in the ensemble – down to the last chair player – plays a vital role in the quality of the whole band. Additionally, there is no right or wrong answers in music. Each musical performance is unique and can never be perfect. Even the best professional musicians spend their entire lives reaching for perfection, never quite attaining it. These two characteristics separate music from other subjects and are what make it such an irreplaceable aspect of a student's education.

Given all of this, we are not in the business of producing only "conservatory players" who have ambitions to pursue music as a profession. We are – very much – in the business, however, of developing a life-long relationship with music in every student. Along the way we will also be providing and encouraging positive interactions and personal growth through the medium of music. The road towards these goals is extremely rewarding, yet very challenging. Only through positive effort on the part of everybody involved in the program can true excellence be achieved.

## **Goals and Objectives**

1. Students will continually improve their individual playing ability and musical knowledge by participating in full ensemble experiences, chamber groups, and solos.
2. Students will increase their skill and comprehension levels by understanding and working towards mastery of various musical concepts, including, but not limited to: posture, breath control, embouchure structure, specific instrument background information, technical facility (including scales, articulation, rhythmic accuracy, sight-reading, terminology, interpretation, form, style, etc.). These improvements will be monitored in class, but will require outside practice to master.
3. Students will be evaluated through various methods, including playing quizzes, verbal comprehension questions (in class), observation of class performance and participation, written work, teacher feedback and coaching in class, and performances outside of class time.

## **“Means to the End” Process**

Providing a positive experience for all students is a weighty task and requires cooperation on the part of students, student leaders, and staff. We are dealing with students over their four-year high school career. Individual ability and comprehension levels will vary greatly from student to student over the four years. Consequently, students are requested to maintain a positive and helpful decorum as we work toward both individual skill enhancement and comprehension, and group progress and performance readiness.

Students should use class time to the best possible advantage. They should concentrate, make a positive contribution, and study music when waiting for rehearsal to move on, etc. Individual learning styles will vary. Students will be evaluated on the basis of progress from their own starting point. The goal is to progress as far as possible toward the written objectives of the experience.

## **Specific Objectives**

By the time a student graduates from Volunteer High School, he or she will be able to demonstrate the following competencies to a high level of mastery:

1. The student will demonstrate – while standing or sitting – proper playing position, taking into consideration growth and motor ability.
2. The student will identify, define, and utilize the musical terms and symbols encountered in the musical literature being studied.
3. The student will perform music using mixed meters, changing meters, asymmetrical patterns, free rhythms, and non-traditional notation. Additionally, the student will perform music using rest and note values through the 32<sup>nd</sup>-note.
4. The student will play all major scales in as many complete octaves as possible within the legitimate range of the instrument at a variety of speeds, articulations, and rhythms.
5. The student will play a chromatic scale encompassing the legitimate range of the instrument, performed in eighth-note values at a minimum tempo of 120 beats per minute.
6. The student will identify key signatures and apply them to any music being performed.
7. The student will describe – as a consumer and performer – musical literature of various styles, composers, and compositional techniques.
8. The student will interpret music with historical perspective and style.
9. The student will demonstrate sight-reading skills in music containing moderately difficult rhythmic structures and keys.
10. The student will demonstrate instrumental techniques including the use of advanced alternate fingerings and positions, as well as advanced techniques that are idiomatic to the full range of the instrument.
11. The student will demonstrate the ability to balance and blend his or her tone-quality within a performing group.
12. The student will produce a controlled and centered tone-quality throughout the legitimate range of his or her instrument.

13. The wind student will demonstrate the ability to perform any articulation found in the music that is appropriate to the style period.
14. The wind student will demonstrate the ability to play within the equal temperament system of intonation.
15. Percussion students will play with expertise all instruments utilized in the band repertoire. (including all mallet instruments)
16. Percussion students will play the following rudiments from opened to closed to open position
  - Single Stroke Roll
  - Multiple bounce roll
  - Double stroke roll
  - Five Stroke Roll
  - Seven Stroke Roll
  - Nine Stroke Roll
  - Single Ratamacue
  - Single Paradiddle
  - Double paradiddle
  - Flam
  - Flam Accent
  - Flam Tap
  - Drag
17. The student will attend class regularly with music, instrument, musical equipment, and a sharpened pencil. Additionally, the student will complete homework assignments, pay attention in rehearsal, and participate fully in class and all performances.

## Program Structure

The band program at Volunteer can be divided into 3 interactive parts: the Concert Band, the Marching Band, and Solo and Ensemble Activities (including the jazz, percussion, and guard ensembles). Only through participation in all 3 aspects of the program may students fully achieve the goals and objectives detailed above.

### **The Volunteer Concert Band**

The foundation of the music education experience at Volunteer is established in the concert band courses. As a continuation from middle school band, the high school concert band takes the essential musical skills learned in middle school and combines them with advanced techniques, musical experiences, and performance opportunities. It is in this setting that music principles and fundamentals are taught, practiced, and developed. Therefore, participation in all other aspects of the band program is centered off the principles learned in this class.

### ***Scheduling Band into your four-year schedule***

High School band is a four-year educational process. The development of musical skills requires daily reinforcement of individual and ensemble skills. It is imperative for all students to be enrolled in band each and every term during their high school careers. Prior to adopting a 4x4 block schedule, Volunteer was on a traditional 6 period schedule. In that setting, most students found it to be very difficult to remain in band throughout high school without attending summer school. With one of the 6 classes being band, students could only take 5 other courses each year. Under the 4x4 block schedule, however, students enrolled in band year-round may still take 6 other classes during the year. Thus, with careful planning, students should have no trouble fitting band into their schedules for all four years.

A four-year plan illustrating how band fits into the 4x4 Block schedule throughout a student's career on either the College or the Technical Path is shown below. Families are strongly encouraged to consult this plan when designing a student's individual four-year plan.

#### ***College Path***

9 <sup>th</sup> Grade		10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	
English	Math	English	Math
Science	Wellness	Science	U.S. History
World History	Elective	Foreign Language	Foreign Language
Marching Band	Concert Band	Marching Band	Concert Band

11 <sup>th</sup> Grade		12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	
English	Math	English	Math **
Science	Government	Economics	Computer **
Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective
Marching Band	Concert Band	Marching Band	Concert Band

#### ***Technical Path***

9 <sup>th</sup> Grade		10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	
English	Math	English	Math
Science	Wellness	Science	US History
World History	Tranp. Core	Auto Mech	Auto Mech
Marching Band	Concert Band	Marching Band	Concert Band

11 <sup>th</sup> Grade		12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	
English	Math	English	Math **
Science	Government	Economics	Computer **
Auto Mech	Auto Mech	Auto Mech	Auto Mech
Marching Band	Concert Band	Marching Band	Concert Band

\*\* -- Only needed if wishing to be a TN/VA Scholar

## **The Volunteer Marching Band / Color Guard**

The Volunteer Marching Band, which includes the color guard, begins rehearsing in the summer and continues through the football season. Performances include all home and away football games, pep rallies, parades, and several competitions. This ensemble is unquestionably the most visible performance group in high school.

The marching band is a curricular activity open to any current ninth through twelfth grade band student. Because the activity is a direct product of the skills that are developed in the band curriculum, only students currently enrolled in a band class are eligible to march. All members of the color guard must enroll in the auxiliary band class first semester. Students with scheduling problems should contact the band office. If a director determines that a student has a valid scheduling problem which can not be overcome through the cooperative efforts of the student and guidance office, the student may be allowed to participate in the marching band in an after-school capacity only, receiving no school credit. (Currently, we are the only school that we know of that allows this to happen and these students are held to the same rules and regulations as a regular band class member).

The marching activity is a demanding activity, both musically and physically. All participants must commit themselves to maintaining high musical performance standards as well as good physical conditioning.

### **Color Guard**

The term “Color Guard” has been handed down from the era of military marching bands, originally referring to those who presented and “guarded” the American and military flags – the “colors”. Nowadays, the term refers to the marching band members who add visual impact and color to the musical performance in a challenging activity that combines equipment work (flags, rifles, sabers) with dancing, and marching.

Auditions for the guard are held in May and are open to all upcoming and current Volunteer High School students. Color guard members are not required to play a musical instrument. Specific audition requirements vary each time, but often will include equipment work, movement, and marching fundamentals.

Color guard participants are full members of the marching band. Therefore, they are expected to participate in all marching band activities, to help in fund-raisers, and are required to follow all applicable rules and regulations contained in this handbook. Participants are also required to be a member of the Auxiliary Band Class. (1<sup>st</sup> semester only.) Freshmen who plan to audition for this group should sign up for Marching Band and will be moved into the Auxiliary Band Class upon a successful audition for the VHS Guard.

## **Solo and Ensemble / Jazz Band / Winter Guard / Indoor Percussion**

Solo and Ensemble is a year round, self actuated activity. The study of solo and small ensemble literature places performance demands on the individual that are often not found in music for full band. Every student, regardless of ability, can benefit greatly from participating in solo and ensemble activities. Solos and Ensembles may perform at concerts in school, in solo competitions, in recitals, and at the ETSBOA Solo and Ensemble Festival in March.

Auditions are held for placement into the extra-curricular Jazz Band. This ensemble will employ the standard big-band instrumentation of saxophones, trumpets, trombones, drums, piano, guitar, and bass. Participants in these ensembles must have strong performance and sight-reading skills, as well as a desire to learn the theory and technique of jazz improvisation, and integral part of the jazz idiom. Students must be currently enrolled in band class in order to be eligible to participate in jazz ensembles. Exceptions to this will only be made for rhythm section players.

Jazz ensembles will have extracurricular rehearsals. Performances will include school concerts, Night of Jazz, and Jazz Festivals.

Winter Guard is a color guard team that performs to recorded music at indoor competitions from January through April. This activity combines modern dance with flag, rifle, and saber work. Membership is open to anyone at

Volunteer High School and members are not required to be enrolled in band class. Auditions are held in November of each year. The Winter Guard squad typically practices on Tuesday and Thursday Nights from 6-9 during the competition season. During the season the squad travels to competitions throughout East TN/Virginia/North Carolina/South Carolina. Competitions are most frequently held on Saturdays.

The Indoor Percussion is an ensemble that performs a marching show inside a gymnasium during the Spring Season. This ensemble consists of the marching battery percussion as well as the front ensemble instruments. Members of this ensemble are not required to be enrolled in band class. Auditions are held in November of each year. The Indoor Percussion typically practices on Tuesday and Thursday Nights from 6-9 during the competition season. During the season the squad travels to competitions throughout East TN/Virginia/North Carolina/South Carolina. Competitions are most frequently held on Saturdays.

## **Musical Development**

### **Individual Practice**

Absolutely essential to improving as a player is *daily* practice on your instrument. Your homework for band is to practice. Here are some practice tips for making the most out of your practice sessions:

1. Practice every day! Remember, it is much better to practice 30 minutes each day than it is to practice 1 hour every other day. Taking a day off is like not playing for 3 days.
2. Consider practicing in shifts. In other words, instead of playing for 60 minutes straight, practice for 30 minutes, take a break (do some homework), and then finish later.
3. Try to have a set time every day during which you practice.
4. Have a set place where you practice. Make sure that this place is where you will not be disturbed and where you may concentrate on your playing.
5. Have a goal or goals established for every practice session – be careful not to fall into the trap of simply playing your instrument and stumbling through a practice session.
6. The old adage of “practice makes perfect” is not totally accurate. Only perfect practice makes perfect! Isolate trouble areas by breaking them down. Begin slowly and then increase tempo.
7. Always begin each practice session with at least a brief warm-up.
8. Spend time every day working on your sound – this is your musical signature.
9. Spend time every day playing scales in as many different ways as you can.
10. Spend time every day working on technical skills including facility, range, tonguing, dynamic range, and endurance.
11. Spend time every day practicing your band music. Make sure you reinforce concepts covered in class on this music.
12. Spend time every day sight-reading.

### **Private Lessons**

While participation in large and small ensembles is an integral part of musical development and promotes camaraderie and mutual effort, class instruction is, by necessity, very general. Those students who truly wish to excel musically are strongly encouraged to study privately with an instructor outside of school. In private lessons a professional player on your instrument will spend time with you individually, to develop your strengths as a musician. It is no coincidence that the vast majority of musicians who earn the top chairs in the Volunteer Concert Band, placement in District and All-State Bands, and college scholarships study with great private teachers.

With a world-class symphony orchestra and many other professional ensembles, the Tri-cities area is full of professional musicians who also teach privately. Shop wisely when in the market for a private teacher. Be sure you find someone who is truly a professional on your instrument, and who you feel comfortable with. Often a recommendation from a friend who has a private teacher that he or she is happy with is a good way to begin.

Most of the major music stores in the area have full faculties of private teachers. Many private teachers also teach out of their homes.

## **Instrument Upgrades**

Just as participants in any other specialized activity move up to better equipment in order to improve their performance, musicians are constantly striving to find mouthpieces, reeds, and instruments that enable them to progress towards their full potential. For many students, the first two years of high school is the time to consider investing in a better quality instrument. The beginner model that you started on in sixth grade was fine then, but you have undoubtedly outgrown the limitations imposed by your mass-produced student-line instrument and mouthpiece.

You will never be able to perform any better than the quality of the equipment you use. Race car drivers do not drive economy cars, marathon runners do not wear Keds, and top-notch musicians do not play the instrument that they rented when they started “way-back-when”. The more advanced models of instruments do cost more, of course, but it is a worthwhile investment. Please discuss any equipment upgrades with the band staff before purchasing equipment.

If the cost of a professional level instrument is too much at this point, at least invest a few dollars in a better mouthpiece and/or reed. What “came in the box” in sixth grade is simply too generic to be appropriate for you now. Please consult the band director(s) for suggestions and requirements before buying any equipment.

## **Additional Performance Opportunities**

Band students are strongly encouraged to continually seek opportunities outside of the band program to make music. In addition to District and All-State Bands, etc. there are many opportunities for talented high school musicians to make music in the Tri-cities area. Groups such as the Symphony of the Mountains Youth Orchestra, the Knoxville Jazz Orchestra, the East Tennessee Youth Wind Ensemble at Carson Newman, and others hold auditions throughout the year. In addition, many of our students perform in a variety of church and community ensembles on a regular basis. Such outside experiences will only serve to further develop musical skills and concepts.

## **Assessment Plan**

Students in all band classes will be graded according to the following plan:

### **Participation**

In the music classroom, students learn through experience. In band, students learn and grow by playing their instruments and actively participating in classroom activities. This type of learning cannot be “made-up”. Thus, full participation in the classroom is essential for musical growth.

Students will be evaluated on their level of participation in the classroom on a daily basis. Active and full involvement in the rehearsal process is expected. Through observation the instructor will evaluate the individual student’s participation and preparedness. Failure to fully participate in class by coming unprepared or not actively participating will result in a lower daily grade.

### **Performance Tests and Projects**

Student performance will be periodically evaluated through both “live” and “taped” performance tests. These tests will measure student progress towards attainment of specific musical goals. Material for these tests will include both musical examples from the literature being performed and fundamental exercises such as scales, arpeggios, technique exercises, etc.

## Attendance Policy

Absence affects performance and the success of performance-oriented activities such as band *depends* upon full participation. Each student's participation affects the group outcome, and each student plays a valuable role in this process.

Attendance guidelines have been developed to support the learning process for both the student and the group. Attendance is related to both self-discipline and learning. If a student is not in rehearsal, he or she has missed that participatory portion of his or her educational experience and that experience cannot be made-up.

A calendar of events is published in advance for you planning. Students and their families are requested to plan appropriately when scheduling appointments, etc. so that rehearsals and performances are not missed. The following attendance policy applies to both the band class rehearsals and the extra-curricular rehearsals of the marching band, jazz ensembles, guard, etc.

### **Excused Absences**

Excused absences will only be granted for certain unforeseen conflicts. Excused absences include illness, death in the family, an important religious observance, and potentially some other circumstances. ***Personal conflicts such as doctor's appointments, jobs, homework, etc. are not excused.***

If a student wishes to receive an excused absence, the student must submit a request, in writing, to the director at least one week prior to the absence. Failure to do so will automatically result in the student's absence being unexcused. Submission of a request does not guarantee approval.

In the event that a student must be absent due to an unforeseen emergency such as personal illness, **the student is required to call the band office (423-357-8332)** to inform the director of the absence. If a student is well enough to attend classes during the school day, the student is expected to attend rehearsal and will not be granted an "excused" status for missing the rehearsal without advance permission from a director. Additionally, the student is required to bring a parent note to the director on the day of his return to school. Failure to do so will automatically result in the student's absence being unexcused.

### **Unexcused Absences**

An unexcused absence is one that does not satisfy the requirements listed previously for excused absences. An unexcused absence from a rehearsal or performance will result in the student not being allowed to perform in the next performance. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in the student forfeiting any awards that he or she would have been eligible for that year and may also alter his or her participation status in that ensemble. Two unexcused absences from rehearsals will similarly result in forfeiture of awards. Multiple attendance issues may also result in an alteration of the student's participation status. Any student who finds their participation level altered due to attendance issues or behavioral consequences will not be refunded or excused from any financial fees and responsibilities due for participation in the activities/events.

### **Promptness**

The most important part of any band rehearsal occurs in the first five or ten minutes. It is during that time that, in addition to warming-up physically, the student will focus his or her mind into the group rehearsal process. Tardies also follow the same guidelines and excuse procedures listed above. Two unexcused tardies equal one unexcused absence and with that comes all of the ramifications listed above. With respect to promptness students are encouraged to keep the following adage in mind:

*To be early is to be on time  
To be on time is to be late  
To be late is to be left!!!*

During the school day, students are expected to be in the band room preparing for rehearsal at the beginning of the assigned class time. Precisely 5 minutes after class is scheduled to begin, students must be in their chairs warming up for class. Those students not in class when the tardy bell rings and/or not in their seats warming up 5 minutes after the bell will be marked tardy. Tardies will have an adverse effect on the daily participation grade.

## **Concert Attendance**

A performance is the culmination of weeks and/or months of learning. Because concerts are the final step in this educational process, it is essential that students fully participate in all performances. Students will receive a grade for each concert. Full participation in the concert will result in the student receiving full credit. In the event that a student misses a concert, he or she has missed an educational experience that cannot be replaced or “made-up”. All performances are required and a student’s status within the group can be affected by missing a performance.

## **Chair Placement and Challenges**

At the beginning of each term, students enrolled in band class are placed in an initial chair order by the director. During the term, there will be a chair placement audition for the concert band. This audition will be a taped audition. Following this audition, students then have the opportunity to improve their chair placement through the challenge system and various playing tests that are designated to affect chair placement (ie. Scale tests, performance pass-offs, etc). This system operates under the following guidelines:

- Students can challenge chairs from a lower chair to a higher chair.
- Students may re-issue a challenge on the day of losing a challenge, but the actual audition will not take place for 5 school days after the initial challenge.
- Failure to appear at a challenge will result in the forfeiture of that challenge.
- Challenges tainted by ill will or negative feelings will be canceled or forfeited at the director’s discretion.
- All challenges must be concluded two weeks prior to any concert.
- If a student is involved in a challenge, his/her chair may not be improved/hindered by scale tests or other performance pass-offs to preserve the integrity of the challenge process.

### **Procedures for seat placement challenges:**

#### **Making the challenge:**

1. The person wishing to challenge must first notify the person that they wish to challenge of their intent to do so.
2. The challenger will fill out a challenge request form and return it to the director.
3. The director will return the challenge request form to both students involved in the challenge with the date and time of the challenge and the music to be performed.

#### **On the day of the challenge:**

1. The challenge itself will be “blind” in that the director listening to the challenge will not be able to see the players. To preserve the anonymity of the challenge neither student may talk once the challenge process has begun.
2. Before entering the challenge room, the students will determine who will play first (#1) and who will play second (#2) .
3. Challenges will take place in the director’s office with the student’s playing in the main portion and the director will be sitting in the back library portion of the office so that the students are out of sight.
4. Once the director states for the challenge to begin, Student (#1) will perform the music. Once student (#1) finishes, student (#2) will play. *Remember it is important that you decide who will play first before the challenge and that once the challenge begins you not say a word until the challenge is over.*
5. The person who performs the music with the highest level of excellence will be declared the winner of the challenge and will then either assume or retain the higher chair.

Once a challenge has been issued and a date has been assigned, it is the responsibility of the student’s involved in the challenge to keep up with the date and time in which the challenge will occur. Once a decision has been

made, no ill will or negative feelings should be held toward the challenger or the challengee. This is an audition, and the results on any given day can be different.

## **Conduct**

Students are expected to demonstrate positive and cooperative behavior when associated with the bands of Volunteer High School. When you are wearing a Volunteer High School band uniform you are representing your school. Inappropriate or offensive behavior or language will not be tolerated. We represent ourselves, each other, and the school, and we strive to represent the *highest* standards and traditions.

### **Specific Behavior Guidelines**

1. All Hawkins County Board of Education disciplinary guidelines are in effect at all band functions.
2. No use of alcohol, tobacco, or illicit drugs will be permitted at any time. Possession or use of any of these will result in disciplinary actions in accordance with school policy. This may include action by law-enforcement authorities. It may also result in expulsion from the program.
3. No abuse of school facilities or equipment. This includes uniforms, instruments, music, or the physical structures. Students will be charged for any damage to the above.
4. No unauthorized use of school instruments.
5. Absolutely no hazing, bullying, or harassment of students.
6. No profanity will be tolerated.
7. No disrespect of authority. This includes all student leadership, administrators, teachers, staff, band parents, and anyone else connected with the program.
8. No one is permitted to leave designated areas without permission. A director or chaperone must know where you are at all times.

Students who do not abide by these guidelines may be subject to administrative referral and participation in extra-curricular events may be modified or suspended. Continued behavior issues or extreme matters may result in the student being dismissed from extra-curricular events.

### **In The Band Room**

1. Students must be prompt and prepare for rehearsal in a positive manner (see attendance policy)
2. Over 200 students use the band room each day (almost 100 of them not having any relationship to the band program). Let's keep it clean and orderly. Trashcans are provided for your use. Instruments and music folders are to be kept in only the instrument storage room located in the band room. Inappropriate behaviors include activities such as playing percussion (or other) instruments without permission, careless treatment of room or equipment, use of room for reasons other than practice or music rehearsal. Common sense should take care of these issues.
3. There is to be **ABSOLUTELY NO FOOD, DRINK, OR GUM** in the band room – **EVER!!!** Students may have bottled water **ONLY** if it is necessary.
4. Music stands and chairs are to be put back in their proper place after each rehearsal.
5. Books may be stored in the instrument room at your own risk. The band staff is not responsible for anything except the instruments that are stored in the band room. It is recommended that you store only your instrument in your instrument storage space and that you use your locker for all personal belongings.
6. Vandalism, use of school equipment, or other student's property without permission will not be tolerated.

## Care of Instruments

All instruments should be treated with care whether they are student owned or school owned. Store them properly. Keep mouthpieces, reeds, valves, etc. in good playing condition. Have at least 3 extra reeds at all times. It is the player's responsibility to maintain his or her instrument and to keep the director informed of any problems with the instrument that could affect the player's ability to participate fully.

- Students may be excused from playing while an instrument is being repaired.
- An excuse will only be granted if a repair note is provided.
- A student should not take their instrument to the repair shop unless they receive permission from the director.
- School owned instruments will be checked out to the student in optimal playing condition. It is the responsibility of the student to maintain the instrument once the instrument is issued. Students will be responsible for all repairs that need to occur to the school instrument during the time in which they are in possession of the instrument.

## Care of Music

Band music is extraordinarily expensive. Music folders are designed to help protect this music from damage. Despite this we still must be very careful handling the music.

- All marks must be made in pencil and erased before turning in
- Music not returned in good condition will be charged at the replacement rate.
- If replacement music parts are not available, the student may be required to purchase the complete set of parts.

## Bus Trip Rules

1. Each student is responsible for his or her own instrument and uniform. If you forget something, you may have to sit out the performance.
2. Any instruments that are not school owned are not covered under the schools insurance policy. It is recommended that any personal instruments be added to the owner's home owner's policy.
3. All school owned instruments need to be placed on the equipment trailer. All other instruments can be placed there at your own risk and the band boosters are not responsible for the items if something happens to the equipment trailer.
4. Unless told otherwise, the complete uniform is to be worn at all times.
5. Keep the buses clean.....in words and actions as well.
6. All county and coach bus rules apply as well as specific rules of the individual driver.
7. Buses will be loaded in the following order: chaperones, then leadership and staff, then seniors, juniors, sophomores, then freshmen.
8. All students are required to ride the bus to the event. Students may ride home with a parent **ONLY** if a written note from the parent is given to the chaperone on the student's bus **PRIOR** to leaving the school for the event. We are responsible for you and must know your whereabouts at all times. Students that do go home with their parents must return their uniforms to school the next school day.
9. All students must stay for the entire game or event unless prior permission is gained.
10. No changing from one bus to another without director's permission

## Football Game Rules

1. All students must remain in full uniform and must stay in their places in their sections throughout the game.
2. No non-band members in the stands during the game.
3. Only people of authority (directors, police officers, administrators, etc.) may break rank.
4. No playing of instruments in the stands unless directed by a Drum Major or director.
5. Students may only leave the stands with a chaperone

## Uniform Use Regulations

Band uniforms represent a very large expenditure of band funds. Part of the band fee every year goes to cover the cleaning fees for each uniform and to offset the costs of normal maintenance, replacement, and periodic cleaning of the uniform parts. This amount does not begin to cover the full cost of these items, so uniform use regulations have been established to prevent unnecessary wear and tear on these garments. We need for these uniforms to last for many years.

You are responsible for maintaining your uniform in pristine condition. Any replacement or repair costs incurred through loss of parts, excessive damage, or other negligence **WILL BE BILLED TO YOU**.

### **Concert Attire Requirements**

The appearance of a performing group has a significant impact on the audience's perception of that group. Due to the limited number of concerts done throughout the year, the band boosters do not provide the concert uniform for the group. Students will be responsible for purchasing and maintaining their own concert attire. The following concert dress requirements have been established:

#### All Ladies

- Black dress pants
- White button up shirt or blouse
- Black Socks or Hose
- Black closed toe shoes

#### All Men

- Black Dress Pants
- White button up Oxford Shirt
- Black Socks
- Black Shoes

### **Marching Band Uniform Rules and Regulations**

1. *You must wear your entire uniform to perform.* Prior to each performance, the student leaders will perform a dress inspection. Neatness and correctness of appearance will be assessed. This will include band T-shirt underneath the jacket, uniform shorts under pants, black socks, and cleanliness of gloves, shoes, and instruments. Students that do not pass inspection must correct all violations – possibly including the purchase of missing or soiled items – in order to perform.
2. All band members must *remain in full uniform* with jacket and hat on unless told otherwise by the director or drum major.
3. No jewelry is to be worn other than post earrings. This applies to males and females.
4. Hair that is long enough must be worn up inside the shako. This applies to both males and females.
5. When boarding the bus, students must be in the uniform specified by the director for the trip.
6. In colder weather, students will be permitted to wear Under Armor underneath their uniform to help provide extra warmth. Students will not be permitted to wear blue jeans with the uniform at **ANY** time.
7. After each use the uniform must be hung neatly on the correct hanger, with creases aligned according to the instructions given by the uniform room volunteers.
8. All uniforms should be turned in following every performance and also needs to have the garment bag hung on the hanger with the uniform.

### **Marching Uniform Care Instructions**

#### **Hanging**

It is absolutely essential that the uniforms be hung correctly to ensure that they remain in pristine condition. Please keep track of the uniform hanger as it is made to maintain the uniform's shape. **Do not use a plain hanger on your uniform.** Once you have hung your uniform correctly please take it to the uniform closet and turn it in to the uniform closet volunteers.

## **Cleaning**

The new uniforms are made of polyester fabric. While some parts of the uniform are washable, **NO STUDENT SHOULD EVER ATTEMPT TO WASH THEIR UNIFORM.** The band boosters will take care of having the uniforms dry cleaned. If you feel that the uniform needs to be cleaned other than the times the band boosters have them cleaned, you may request to take the uniform to the appointed dry cleaners to have it cleaned. This expense will only be covered by the band booster during the specific cleaning days designated by the director. Any other charges for cleaning will be the responsibility of the students. If you think that your uniform needs cleaning or repair please let the volunteers in the uniform room know when you pick up or turn in your uniform.

## **Student Leadership Positions**

### **Drum Major**

1. Direct all field rehearsals and performances of the marching band.
2. Set standards in attendance, punctuality, attitude, musicianship, and loyalty that the members of the band can and should try to follow.
3. Act as a liaison between band members and the directors and staff.
4. Responsible for keeping the student leadership working together as a team.
5. Coordinate bleacher activities for football games, oversee behavior and maintain proper discipline.
6. Inspect section leader uniforms prior to full band uniform inspections.
7. Have the band in the correct place at the correct time for rehearsals and performances.
8. Show patience, consideration, and understanding in dealings with the band while not compromising standards.
9. Assist the directors and staff in administrative and organizational tasks.
10. Exhibit and demand discipline within the band.
11. Organize and supervise clean-up of the band room and practice field after rehearsals and performances.
12. Conduct for band performances as needed.
13. Assist in the teaching of the drill during marching rehearsals, if needed.

### **Section Leaders / Squad Leaders**

1. Learn all parts for your particular section.
2. Run efficient and effective sectional rehearsals throughout the marching season.
3. Tutor all students in your section that need help with music and/or marching.
4. Enforce the rules and regulations of the band.
5. Refer disciplinary issues to the directors.
6. Conduct uniform inspection of section and report any infraction against dress code.
7. Assume any extra assignments deemed necessary by directors, staff, or chaperones.
8. Serve as a positive role model for the members of the band in conduct, musicianship, and dedication to the band.

## **Student Staff Positions**

### **Librarian**

- Copy, collate, and distribute all parts to the music
- Make and maintain concert and marching folders
- Keep music in the library in order
- Coordinate all drill charts

### **Equipment Manager**

- Assist in the field set-up prior to the beginning of rehearsals and clean up afterward.
- Load all equipment into the trailer and secure it for transport
- Unload all equipment from the truck upon arrival to the site
- Upon returning to the school, supervise putting all equipment back to its proper place

## **Marching Band Pass-Offs**

Pass-offs is designed to insure that all players have memorized their music. All section members must play each piece of music by memory with two mistakes or less to pass it off. All musicians in the band are expected to pass-off show music, the Star-Spangled Banner, Rocky Top, and any other piece assigned by the directors.

The pass-off procedure begins with all section leaders passing-off by memory to the Drum Major. Once these students have passed-off they will then begin listening to students in their sections. Deadlines for the pass-offs will be announced in plenty of time for each student to memorize the parts necessary. Any student not passing off by the assigned deadline may not be eligible to perform in the upcoming half-time show until the necessary music is passed-off. Students are required to attend all performances even if they have not passed-off the music. Students with multiple performance issues due to pass-offs may find their participation in the ensemble modified. These students will stand on the sidelines during the show.

## **Band Awards**

**John Phillip Sousa Award** – This national award is presented to the graduating senior who is deemed to represent the best in musicianship, leadership, and dedication to the band program.

**Patrick M. Gilmore Award** – The award honors additional students in the high school band. Because only one student per year can receive the Sousa Award, and more students may deserve recognition, the Gilmore award allows directors to honor the same qualities of musicianship and dedication in other deserving students.

**National School Marching Award** – This award is presented to a Senior Marching Member for outstanding marching band participation and performance.

**Louis Armstrong Award** – This award is presented to the most outstanding jazz musician in the jazz ensembles.

**Senior Plaques** – All graduating seniors who have participated in the band program throughout their high school careers will receive a Senior Plaque at the Spring Banquet in May.

**Director's Award** – Like the Sousa award, this award is presented to a high school junior who best represents the qualities of musicianship, leadership, and dedication to the band program.

**Woody Hermann Jazz Awards** – These awards are presented to other jazz musicians who have been major contributors to the jazz band program. (Regardless of grade)

**Participation Certificates** – All band members that participated in the ETSBOA Senior, Junior, or Jazz Clinics during the school year will be awarded with a participation certificate.

**Most Improved Certificates** – A certificate will be awarded each year to the most improved student in each section throughout the entire school year.

## **Fund-Raising**

The Volunteer High School Band program is funded, almost exclusively, through fund-raising projects organized by the Volunteer High School Band Boosters. Throughout the year there are many opportunities for both the students and parents to raise money for the band program as a whole, and for their individual student accounts. Details of fund-raisers are covered in the parent handbook and are discussed in the monthly booster club meetings.

## **Student Accounts**

Student accounts are established once a student becomes a member of the band program. Deposits of money are made into student accounts based upon their participation in fund-raising events. The student may then use the balance of his or her account to help cover the cost of various band expenses. The student account is a great way to defray some of the costs of fees, trips, promotional items, and other band expenses. More detailed information is contained in the Parent Handbook.

## **Payment Information**

All checks for fees, etc. should be made out to the Volunteer High School Band Boosters. Checks should then be placed in a *clearly labeled envelope* and either be mailed to the Band Boosters P.O. Box or given to the band director for logging. Any monies given to the band director will be placed in a lock box in the band office for the treasurer to pick up.

## **Parent Involvement**

Our parent organization is vital to the operation of the Volunteer High School Band program. We need everyone's participation in order to be successful. Even if your time is very limited, there are numerous ways in which you can help to make the Volunteer Band Program even better! Your talents and abilities are greatly needed and appreciated.

**Band Booster meetings are on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00pm in the band room or chorus room.** The best way to stay informed and avoid confusion and/or miscommunication is to be at the booster meetings, hear the facts for yourself, and ask questions. For more detailed information, please consult the Parent Handbook or the Volunteer Band website at [volunteerband.com](http://volunteerband.com).

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*Parents: Please get involved – together we can make it happen for our students! Read the Parent Handbook for more details.*

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# Frequently Asked Questions

## Regarding the Volunteer Band Program

### **Is High School Band just Marching Band**

*No. In fact, the Marching Band is only a small portion of the total high school band experience. The Volunteer Band program is centered on the concert music program and developing creative, artistic musicians. In my tenure, the Volunteer band program has quickly established a reputation for musical excellence. With the concert band at the core of the curriculum, students also have the opportunity to participate in a variety of extra-curricular ensembles offered through the department. These include the Marching Band, “Falcon” Jazz Band, Winter Guard, and Indoor Percussion Ensembles.*

### **Does high school band conflict with academics?**

*No, research shows that it enhances academics! - Students participating in band for two years score higher: SAT verbal – 20 points higher SAT Math – 25 points higher and gains increase with each additional year!*

- *MORE THAN 75% of Volunteer Band Students take Honors + AP courses*
- *60-75% of band seniors graduate “with honor” distinctions.*
- *THE AVERAGE GPA of a Volunteer Band Student is 3.0 or higher*
- *MORE THAN 20% of the Volunteer Band students maintained a 4.0 while participating in Marching Band, and Winter Guard/Indoor Percussion*
- *Volunteer Band students have been accepted in some excellent universities: University of Tennessee, Tennessee Tech, East Tennessee State University, Carson Newman College, Berea, University of Tennessee Chattanooga, Middle Tennessee State University, Appalachian State University, University of Tennessee Martin, and many more.*

### **Can students participate in other activities and band at the same time?**

*Band students are members/officers in almost every club! Student Government, BETA, Mu Alpha Theta, KEY, ANNUAL STAFF, VARSITY BASKETBALL, JV BASKETBALL, FRESHMEN BASKETBALL, TRACK, BASEBALL, SOFTBALL, BPA, and MORE!!!!*

### **What and when is Freshmen Band Camp?**

*Freshmen Band Camp is an orientation session for new band members. It will be held the last week of June from 9:00am – Noon.*

### **When is Band Camp for the entire band?**

*Last week of July (with scheduled meal breaks)*

### **Who is expected to attend Band Camp?**

*All students in marching band, including the color guard*

### **How mandatory is Band Camp?**

*In a word...VERY!! Students learn the show for halftime and competitions during this Band Camp. Everyone plays an important part and must be there for the program to be successful.*

**When is Drum Line Camp?**

*The last week of June from 9:00am – 5:00pm with lunch break*

**What are students' expectations?**

*Positive Attitude, Good Attendance, Strong Work Ethic, Communication with Instructors*

**What are parents' expectations?**

- *Help your child by getting him/her to events on time*
- *Stay informed by reading all mail-outs and frequently checking the web site*
- *Support the band's Fund-Raising efforts*
- *Communicate with Directors and Instructors*
- *Make sure all contact information stays up to date*

**What parts of the marching uniform do the students provide?**

*Black socks*

*White Gloves – available through band boosters or Music Doctor's*

*Black Shoes – students will be fitted and order will be placed during band camp*

**What if my child forgets his/her socks or gloves?**

*These are available in the uniform room FOR A COST and should be used in emergency cases only!*

**What kind of academic credit does band offer?**

*Every student is required to take one Fine Arts class. Band will count as one of these. Students who sign up for Marching Band will also receive a PE credit.*

**What will my "out of pocket" expenses include?**

*Marching Band Fee*

*Gloves, shoes, reeds, instrument repair*

*Junior/Senior Clinic Fees*

*Solo and Ensemble Fees*

*Meals on trips*

*Hotel expenses (if overnight trip)*

*Private lessons if you wish for your student*

*Banquet costs*

*Trip costs*

**Who do I call when I have questions?**

*Call the band office – 423-357-8332. The director can either answer your question or can connect you with the appropriate Band Booster Committee Chair, if necessary. You will receive a listing of all the committee chairs and their phone numbers and emails if they have them once that list is compiled.*

**Should my child sign up or continue with private music lessons?**

*YES!!!! Private lessons are an important part of the success of the band and of your individual student!*

**When are the after-school practices?**

*Tuesdays and Thursdays until 5:30pm during football season. Any additional practices will be announced in advance for students and parents to make appropriate arrangements.*

**Where do I send payments?**

*Be sure to read all notices that come home concerning Fund-Raisers. They will be specific about payments. ALSO, there is a locked box in the band room for students to turn in any money due to the band. Be sure to include your child's NAME and PURPOSE OF PAYMENT on the memo line of your check. Your payment will be logged into the log sheet if sent to the band room. Payments can also be mailed to the Band Booster Post Office Box Address Listed Below.*

*VHS Band Boosters  
P.O. Box 952  
Church Hill, TN 37642*

**What does my child need for band camp?**

*INSTRUMENT!!!*

*Great Attitude*

*Patience*

*Breakfast!!*

*Sun tan lotion*

*A hat and sunglasses*

*Comfortable shoes, no sandals or flip-flops*

*Comfortable, loose fitting clothing*

*Encourage them to hydrate themselves during breaks*

*Lay off carbonated drinks*

*Get plenty of rest the night before*

**What should I do if my student is sick?**

*If your student is ill on any given morning of band camp, it is imperative that we are contacted (423)357-8332. Do not assume that we will know they are sick if they are not in attendance. Upon returning, whether it is that particular day or another day of band camp, please send a written excuse for your child's absence. Any student present for the school day is expected to be present for any after-school rehearsals. Students who miss during band camp may have their participation status altered due to not knowing material learned during their absence.*