

Volunteer High School Band



Student Handbook

**Marching Band, Concert Band, Color Guard, Jazz
Band, and Percussion**

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. 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 professional caliber performers.. We are – very much – in the business, however, of developing a life-long relationship with music in every student. We strive to instill in every student, a solid work ethic, responsibility, accountability, communication skills, team, and leadership skills. All students are worthy to be here. All students are expected to adhere to the principles and standards of excellence set forth by the district, directors, staff, and VHS Band Alumni. Throughout this handbook, all policies are in effect for all winds, percussion,

Materials

- Instrument and related supplies (reeds, valve oil, cleaning kit, percussion equipment, guard equipment, etc)
- Metronome (apps are great!)
- Tuner
- Pencil
- Band folder (1 or 2 inch hard binder with page protectors)
- Concert Attire and summer uniform (see below for more information)

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, rudiments, 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, coaching in class, online performance, and performances outside of class time.

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 32nd-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 listener 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 all articulations found in the repertoire.
14. Percussion students will play all instruments utilized in the band repertoire. (including all mallet instruments). Additionally, all percussion students will be required to memorize and perform basic through advanced rudiments.

Musical and Visual Development

Individual Practice

Absolutely essential to improving as a player is *daily* practice on your instrument. Your homework 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 saying 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 everyday 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.

Assessment Plan

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

Participation and Attendance

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 can result in altered participation status for performances.

Performances Assessments

Student performance will be periodically evaluated through both in person and online submitted 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, rudiments, technique exercises, etc. In order to reserve class time for full band instruction, most performance assessments will be online based.

- Students will be given a specific assignment for their section.
- Minimum of five school days will be given for preparation
- Students will upload either an audio or video recording of the assigned selection.
- Students will have the choice to record and upload from home or school. Students that do not have the ability to submit recordings from home will be allowed to use school computers or tablets to complete the assignment at school.
- Assignments will be either performed in person or uploaded to either Canvas or Google Classroom
- To receive full credit, all performances must be submitted on or before the due date.
- Late assignments are subject to a ten point deduction in grade for each day the assignment is late.
- Students that are absent with an excused absence or other circumstances on the date of submission will be granted an extension. This will be handled on a case by case basis.

Students will be regularly assessed on their performance materials. If a student is unable to play and/or march their part in the half-time show, options will be discussed for performances. In order to receive pass-off clearance in music, students must score above 60 percent on their assessment. Grades will be objectively assigned based on correct notes, rhythms, written articulations, dynamics, tone quality, memoriation, and overall knowledge of the assigned section.

Knowing your dot on the field is paramount for the safety of all students on the field. Collisions and serious injuries can and have occurred. If a student cannot demonstrate adequate knowledge in spatial awareness and drill placement, participation status in performances will be considered.

These include, but are not limited to (Marching the show and playing what you know; Playing from the sidelines; Sitting out the performance). Once a student has remediated their performance, the student will return to normal performance duties. Students that do not know their spot on the field is considered a safety hazard and can cause injury to themselves or others. Musically, if a student does not know their part, it will create tears in the music causing performance issues and score penalties when we compete. Performances will count as test grades as they are a culmination of every class and homework activity.

Grading

Grading categories are weighted as follows:

Playing Assessments/Performances 50%

Rehearsal Performance/Etiquette/Participation 30%

Sectionals/Individual Practice 10%

Written Assignments 10%

Forms

School-owned Instruments

Students that used school-owned instruments or equipment must fill out the Instrument/Equipment agreement form. Upon student/parent signing the rental agreement, the student will be issued the requested equipment for use during the semester. During that time, school-owned equipment must be properly cared for and maintained per standards set forth by the directors. Please see the instrument/equipment rental form for all details.

The student will present the instrument to one of the directors or staff each month for inspection. The director will examine the equipment for normal wear/tear and current condition. This includes the interior and exterior of the equipment. Brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments will need to be kept clean and clear of any food, beverage, or dirt contaminants. Per the agreement, if an instrument needs repair due to normal wear and tear, the band will have the instrument repaired from the band booster budget. If a student is found to be negligent resulting in damage to the instrument, the student will be responsible for repairs/replacement. This also includes the cleanliness of the interior and exterior. Students will need to have access to or purchase a cleaning kit to ensure the instrument looks and plays its best.

Instrument Maintenance Form

Only needed for those students that are using a school-owned instrument. All students can use this form as a guideline for short and long term instrument maintenance.

Medical Forms

This form is a basic medical form for each student that we keep with us at all times in the event of a medical emergency. This helps us to be aware of any food or medical allergies, along with any important medical information.

Indemnificaton Form

This form is to be signed in the presence of a Notary Public. Every student must have this on file before they can travel with us. The Indemnification Form is good for one calendar year from the date of Notary signature.

Parent Volunteer Form

This is required by Hawkins County Schools for all parents that assist the band in any capacity.

VHS Band Contract

This is required for all performing members of the VHS Band. It establishes contact information and your intent to participate in the upcoming school year.

Check In / Check Out Policy

The band has an extensive travel schedule during the school year. For most performances, we will provide bus transportation to and from events where the full ensemble is present. The only exception where buses are not used are Church Hill, Mt. Carmel, and Surgoinsville Christmas Parades. Due to the close proximity of the school, students can be dropped off and picked up at the parade location.

All students must ride the bus from Volunteer High School to the performance location. Students will have the option of returning home with their parents/guardians. If a student chooses this option, the following procedure must be followed:

On the day of the trip;

- The student will present their bus chaperone with a signed letter from a parent/guardian. The letter must include the student name and the name/relationship of the parent that the student will be riding home with. If the person taking the student home is not a family member, the adult in charge must also sign the permission note. The bus chaperone will record the names of all students not riding home with us in the bus notebook. The note must be presented to the bus chaperone before we leave school.
- At the performance location upon departure, the chaperone will be at the bus door with the notebook. The student and parent/guardian/adult in charge, will need to meet the chaperone and sign out the student. This is very similar to the sign out procedures in the front office during the school day. Student safety is the top priority and therefore, all rules will be enforced. **Bus Chaperones will not be allowed to make any exemptions for deviations with student pickup.** *Example, if a parent is designated to take a student home and a family friend shows up to sign out the student, that student will not be allowed to leave. Bus chaperones rotate on a regular basis and may not be aware of a potential serious or custodial situation.* **Only the Band Director has the right to override the policy.** *Students will be responsible for ensuring that their uniform and any equipment they manage will be properly stowed by another student upon arrival at VHS.* **In order for the band to efficiently and effectively load and depart the performance venue, parents please plan to meet the band at the bus as we arrive. The buses will depart within ten minutes of bus attendance being taken.**

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. All absences will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

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. Students must actively participate in rehearsals. If a student sits out for the majority of rehearsals, the directors will exercise their discretion on the student's performance status for the next outing. All factors will be considered by the staff before making a final decision.

A calendar of events is published in advance for your convenience. The band's rehearsal and performance schedule is fluid, meaning that there can be rehearsals/performances added or canceled. We will do our best to make sure that everyone receives information in a timely manner in order to adjust schedules. 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, concert band, jazz ensembles, guard, percussion, etc.

After School Rehearsals/Attendance:

- The VHS Band holds full Band rehearsals on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-5:30, unless specified otherwise.
- All scheduled rehearsals and performances are mandatory.
- Dates are set well in advance and are available either by paper copies sent home, Hawkins County Schools app on your phone, The Volunteer High School Band Facebook page, and our website www.volunteerband.com. Please plan accordingly.
- Attendance for rehearsals will be taken beginning at the designated call time. All students are responsible for being in their assigned area, setting up and warming up at that time.
- In the event of an unavoidable absence, the directors must be notified at least 1 Week before a Rehearsal and at least 1 Month before a performance. Please try your best to communicate any emergency last minute absences as well.
- Illness/Emergency Absences from required events should be accompanied by a doctor's note and/or parental communication. These will be addressed as they happen on a case-by-case basis.
- Unexcused Absences will lower a student's grade, as well as render them ineligible for performing at the following Friday evening football game. Multiple unexcused absences can result in removal from the competition show and dismissal at the end of the semester.

Excused Absences

- Excused absences from band rehearsals and performances will be granted for circumstances that are beyond the control of a student/family. Excused absences include illness, death in the family, an important religious observance, and other unforeseen circumstances. If a student wishes to receive an excused absence, the student needs to inform the band director prior to the absence. Failure to do so will automatically result in the student's absence being unexcused until the absence reason has been remedied.

One piece of advice is that if you have a standing doctor's appointment (braces, other non-essential appointments) please do your best reschedule to a day that does not interfere with rehearsals. Sometimes this cannot be avoided, but please try your best to attend all rehearsals. If a student misses the last rehearsal prior to a performance, the director will exercise their discretion in allowing the student to participate in the next day's performance. All factors will be examined and the decision will be made based on individual safety and what is best for the ensemble. All students are expected to be in attendance at all performances, regardless of performance status. The same applies to all athletics.

In the event that a student must be absent due to a last minute unforeseen emergency such as personal illness, the student should email the director to notify of the absence as soon as humanly possible. You can reach Mr. Andies at the band office at 423-357-3641, extension 5311, or by email at chris.andies@hck12.net. If a student is well enough to attend classes during the school day, the student is expected to attend rehearsal unless a doctor's appointment has been scheduled for the same afternoon.

Unexcused Absences

- An unexcused absence is one that does not satisfy the requirements listed for excused absences.
- An unexcused absence from a rehearsal will result in non-participation of the halftime show in the next football game along with grade reduction, see above for grades.
- One unexcused absence from a Friday football game will result in a letter grade deduction and a meeting with the student and parents/guardians will be scheduled.
- Unexcused absence from a major contest will result in classroom participation only, all participation at remaining games and competitions will be forfeited, along with two letter grade deduction. A conference will be scheduled between the student, parent/guardian/, administration, and band directors. It will be recommended that the student discontinue participation with the program at the earliest convenience or following semester. 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.

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 recorded audition. The auditions will be sent to 2-3 band directors that have no affiliation with the Volunteer High School Band for judging. This is to ensure validity, transparency, and fairness for every student. Upon chair placements, students will have the opportunity to improve their chair placement through the challenge system. This system operates under the following guidelines:

- Students can challenge the immediate seat above their current placement. (5th chair challenges 4th chair, etc.)
- Challenges may be issued every two weeks. .
- All challenges will be recorded during band class without the director present to ensure fairness and transparency.
- The director will judge the blind audition recordings and issue results in class.
- No challenges will take place 6 weeks prior to any concert.
- If a student has issued a challenge for a higher chair, they may not be challenged by the lower chair until the initial challenge has been completed.

Procedures for seat placement challenges:

Issuing the challenge:

1. The person wishing to challenge must first notify the chair above them along with the director. This will be done during class on a specified day.
2. Both students will have five school days to prepare the challenge material. Challenges must consist of current literature that we are preparing in class.

On the day of the challenge:

1. Again, the challenge itself will be a blind, student-made recording. Students can use their chromebook or the band's iPad for recording purposes.
2. Before entering the challenge room, the students will determine who will play first (#1) and who will play second (#2) .
3. Recordings will take place either in the director's office or in a practice room.
4. Both students will receive 6 minutes to complete their challenge. This is similar to the times given at ETSBOA Senior Clinic and Jazz Clinic.
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 between the students. 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 you are wearing a Volunteer High School band uniform or any apparel with our logo, you are representing our organization and 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, vapes, or drugs will be permitted at any time. Possession or use of any of banned substances will result in disciplinary actions in accordance with school policy. This may include action by law-enforcement authorities. It will 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 incurred damages.
4. No unauthorized use of school instruments.
5. **Absolutely no hazing, bullying, or harassment of students.**
6. Profanity will not 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.

In The Band Room

1. Students must be prompt and prepare for rehearsal in a positive manner (see attendance policy)
2. Over 85 students use the band room each day. The band room must be kept free of trash and clutter. Instruments and music folders, and personal items must be able to fit in your cubby or under your chair. 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.
3. There is to be **ABSOLUTELY NO FOOD, CARBONATED OR FLAVORED DRINKS, OR GUM** in the band room – **EVER!!!** Students may have bottled water **ONLY**.
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 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.
7. In accordance with HCS cell phone policy, all cell phones must be placed in your cubby and remain there until dismissal from class. Phones are not permitted to be taken to the bathroom during break. Please refer to the HCS student handbook cell phone policy.
8. All guard equipment must be properly stored and secured in the guard closet.

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.

Bus Trip Rules- All Hawkins County Policies are in effect

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 personally owned are not covered under the schools insurance policy. It is recommended that any personal instruments be added to the Parent/Guardian homeowners insurance 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- 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. At the conclusion of the game/contest, parents/guardians may collect their child at the buses. At the bus, chaperones will be on hand with a parent sign-out sheet. In addition to the original note given at the school, parents/guardians must sign this sheet before picking up their child. This signature releases the student from VHS Band care to parental care. This is similar to the sign out sheet in the school front office. It is imperative that this process be explicitly followed. The Director and Chaperones reserve the right to refuse student transfer under suspicious circumstances (i.e. custodial issues, false information, etc.). 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. Non-band members are not allowed anywhere inside the band section.
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
6. Cell phones are not allowed to be out during games. Only in “have to situations” may students have a phone out. (Student needs to contact a parent)

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 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 Band 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

- Long ankle length black dress
- Black dress pants or ankle length black skirt
- Solid black button up shirt or blouse
- Black closed toe shoes

All Men

- Black Dress Pants
- Black button up Oxford Shirt
- Black Socks
- Black Shoes
- Men may wear tuxedo, if they have one

Summer Uniforms

- Black knee-length shorts (no rips or tears)
- VHS Band shirt
- black ankle socks
- dark athletic 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 a 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 deficiencies in order to perform. If unable to pass inspection, the student will not be allowed to perform halftime.
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.
9. All hair must be natural colors.

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 uniforms are made of polyester fabric. The band boosters will take care of having the uniforms 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 have the uniform cleaned. This expense will only be covered by the band boosters 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.

Leadership Team

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. Remind and encourage sections regarding the rules and regulations of the band.
5. Conduct uniform inspection of each section and report any deficiencies.
6. Assume any extra assignments deemed necessary by directors..
7. Serve as a positive role model for the members of the band in conduct, musicianship, and dedication to the band.

Student Staff Positions

Librarian (IF NEEDED)

- Copy and distribute all parts to the music
- Make and maintain concert and marching folders along with section leaders
- Keep music in the library in order
- Coordinate all drill charts

Equipment Manager and Logistics

- Assist in the field set-up prior to the beginning of rehearsals and clean up afterward.
- Assemble crews to assist in loading and unloading of equipment prior to transport/arrival.
- Upon returning to the school, supervise putting all equipment back to its proper place
- Assisting with maintaining the practice field.
- Assembling student crews for various projects.

Marching Band Pass-Offs

Pass-offs are designed to ensure that all players have memorized their music. All musicians in the band are expected to pass-off show music.

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 during pass-off assessments will have a modified performance status. **See Assessment Plan section:**

Students will have the opportunity to receive help during class time and after-school on non-rehearsal days. In addition to directors, students can receive help from instructional staff, and Leadership Team. We will strive to provide multiple outlets for all students to find success. Everyone learns differently. Everyone deserves to be successful. Everyone must do their part to our success. We all succeed together and we all fail together. This is a personal journey for each and every one of us and we all must be responsible and be held accountable. Every student can be successful if they are motivated and dedicated.

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 Outstanding Certificates – A certificate will be awarded each year to the most outstanding student in each section throughout the entire school year.

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

Graduation Stolls, Cords and Senior Books Graduating Seniors will qualify to receive a memory book at Band Banquet. Cords will be given to graduating seniors that have participated in all four years. Stolls will be given to graduating Seniors that have participated for four years and have served on the Leadership Team.

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 952, Church Hill, TN 37642. Any money brought to the school will be placed in the band booster safe. The Band Booster Treasurer will issue receipts upon their retrieval of payment.

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 6:00pm in the VHS

Band Room or Little Theater 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. or the Volunteer Band website at www.volunteerband.com.

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

For the most up to date information, please visit our website at www.volnteerband.com . Follow us on Facebook and the Hawkins County Schools App. The band's master calendar, and band booster contact information can also found at our website

Students, Parents and Guardians, please print this last page, sign, and return to Mr. Andies no later than August 9th.

I have read and agree to abide by the policies listed in this handbook.

Parent Signature _____

Parent Name
(Printed) _____

Student Signature _____

Student name
(Printed) _____