

Valley Center High School
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC
DEPARTMENT



PARENT AND STUDENT BAND HANDBOOK
2019-2020

Jan Verboom and Amanda Jolly
Co-Directors of Instrumental Music

Dear Parents and Students:

Congratulations on becoming a member of the 2019-2020 Valley Center High School Hornet Band. The commitment of the individual members of any organization is vital to its success. Likewise, the Valley Center Music Program has a commitment to insure the success of every student, maximizing their potential as a musician and individual. Our goal is to maintain a music program of the highest quality, setting new standards of excellence and maintaining the traditions that students in the past have left in place. As a member of the Valley Center Band Program, you are a part of one of the school's largest and most important organizations. Band is a unique subject that fosters knowledge, friendship, teamwork, self-discipline, and responsibility, lessons that will benefit you for the rest of your life.

All parents and students should read this handbook carefully. The purpose of this handbook is to acquaint and inform all parents and students in the instrumental music program with the philosophies, policies, procedures, and expectations of our organization. This information will guide you in your journey to becoming a positive contributor to our music program. This handbook may not answer all of your questions; therefore, feel free to contact Mr. Verboom or Ms. Jolly and they will be happy to assist you.

You have the opportunity to make a crucial difference in the life of your child by supporting their efforts, not only in music, but in all of the academic areas. As a parent, you can help us in the "band world" by:

- Becoming fully aware of all scheduled events pertaining to the VC Band
- Encouraging your student to communicate conflicts with us ASAP.
- Reiterating the ideals and policies as stated in this handbook.
- Becoming an active member of the VC Band-Aide.

Let's make this year a year in which the tradition of excellence continues!!!

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Director of Bands

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Director of Bands

Please take the time to complete and return the forms listed below. It provides us with your understanding of the responsibilities that come with being a member, and provides us with the necessary information to give your child the best experience possible. Failure to return the forms may prevent your student from being able to travel and compete with us.

FORMS TO RETURN
*Commitment Form
*Medical Form and Release
*Media Release

PROFILE OF THE VALLEY CENTER BAND AND GUARD PROGRAM

The VCHS Band and Guard Program is:

1. The largest student organization at VCHS
2. A comprehensive program that gives students multiple opportunities to perform and participate
 - a. 1 Marching Band
 - b. 2 Concert Ensembles
 - c. 1 Jazz Band
 - d. 1 Color Guard
 - e. Volunteer Pep Band
 - f. Extracurricular Percussion Ensemble
 - g. Extracurricular Saxophone Ensemble
 - h. Extracurricular Solo and Ensemble
 - i. Extracurricular Pit Ensemble (musicals)
 - j. Extracurricular Honor Ensembles
 - i. District Honor Band
 - ii. State Honor Band
 - iii. John Phillip Sousa Honor Band
 - iv. Wichita Youth Orchestra
3. An exciting and fun way to prepare for life outside of high school!
 - a. Learn how to manage time effectively
 - b. Learn how to work towards individual and shared goals
 - c. Strengthen yourself physically, mentally, and emotionally through practice, preparation, performances, and competitions.

Learn more about the VCHS Band and Guard Program at www.valleycenterband.com

Components of the VCHS Band and Guard Program

Marching Band: Marching band is a core component of our program. All students enrolled in the Valley Center Band class are expected to participate in marching band. This activity is **co-curricular, meaning grades are given for activities in and out of class.** Our marching band teaches students the fundamentals and skills necessary for success in our ensembles, including character education that will benefit the student throughout their whole life. This ensemble is the most visible performing group in high school. Marching band is active from July-October, and includes performances at ALL home football games (regular season and playoff), state level football (if applicable), and statewide competitions on weekends. Class meets 1st hour every day and has additional rehearsals outside of school (7:10am Tuesday-Friday, Guard and Drum line have additional rehearsals).

Concert Band: This band meets 1st hours and tends to be comprised of underclassmen, and is generally larger than the Wind Ensemble. This ensemble focuses on developing the skills necessary for quality musicianship, including tone production, technical skills, intonation, music reading, and aural skills. Members are expected to devote time to practicing these skills and their assigned music outside of class time. Participants in concert band also have many other performance opportunities throughout the year. Mr. Verboom directs the Concert Band. Auditions for ensemble and chair placement are held at the end of the Fall semester-audition music is an excerpt from the District audition music used for the current year, and is available in mid-September.

Wind Ensemble: This group meets 1st hour and is a smaller ensemble comprised of students who often take private lessons and/or have a deeper understanding of their instruments and music in general. College level literature is often played in preparation for contest, and practice time outside of class is absolutely essential for success. We continue to work on developing basic music fundamentals, but at a more advanced level. Auditions for ensemble and chair placement are held at the end of the Fall semester-audition music is an excerpt from the District audition music used for the current year, and is available in mid-September.

Jazz Ensemble: The Jazz Ensemble meets during 2nd hour each day of the school year. This ensemble focuses on jazz fundamentals and various musical styles such as funk, swing, rock, etc... Specific focus is placed on solo performance, improvisation, and stylistic characteristics specific to the jazz idiom.

Percussion Ensemble: Percussion ensemble is an extracurricular option open to students during the solo and ensemble season. Rehearsals run from the end of January-April on Monday nights from 6:30-8:00. Students will perform at Regional and State Solo and Ensemble, and may have other performing opportunities.

Color Guard: This refers to members of the program who participate by visually telling a story of a musical performance through challenging equipment work (flag, sabre, rifle), dancing, and color. These students will learn and perform work that is custom written just for members of the group. The color guard participates with the marching band and maintains an active rehearsal schedule outside of class and band time. Color guard also incurs extra fees in addition to band fees, and members **MUST** enroll in the band class. Band members who participate in color guard are expected to rejoin the concert ensembles at the end of marching season; color guard members only who do **NOT** play instruments serve as student aids for the rest of the Fall semester and then drop the band course for the Spring semester.

Pep Band: The Pep Band performs at all home and state playoff basketball games. Pep Band is open to all members of the band without an audition, with the exception of set players, pianists, and bass players. Due to the nature of those instruments and the limited number of spots, an audition is required to decide membership. Rehearsals are only held for the month prior to the first basketball game and occur three

times/week after school during this time period. This ensemble performs crowd favorites and is responsible for providing a supportive and spirit filled atmosphere at the basketball games. *Extra fees associated with this activity.

Pit Orchestra for Musical: This is a small, hand selected group of students that prepare music for the school musical. There will be after school rehearsals, and students will need to be comfortable preparing a large amount of music in a short amount of time.

Saxophone Ensemble: Formed by Brandon Morse, a local saxophone teacher. Group meets after school in the evenings to rehearse and performs at Regional and State Solo and Ensemble. Extra fees often apply.

District and State Honor Ensembles: All VCHS band students are eligible to audition for the SCKMEA District Jazz and Concert Bands. These auditions occur in early October and November. Freshman through seniors may audition for district, but only sophomores and up are eligible to audition for state jazz, band, or orchestra. It is an extreme honor to be part of these ensembles and students gain the experience of a lifetime as they have the opportunity to work with some of the best music educators and conductors in the country. Audition materials are available from Ms. Jolly or Mr. Verboom, or may be found on the KMEA website. Sign-up sheets are posted in September for all those interested in auditioning.

Solos and Small Ensembles: During the spring semester, VCHS Band students can choose to participate in Solo and Ensemble Festival. Students choose solos and/or participate in small ensembles that perform first at the SCKMEA District Solo and Ensemble Festival, and then at KMEA State Solo and Ensemble Festival if the soloist or ensemble receives a I (Superior) Rating. Small ensembles consist of groups from three to twenty members. This is a fantastic way to improve on one's instrument, as well as be exposed to different types of literature.

Other Honor Ensembles (Sousa Band, WYO, etc.) There are a number of non-KMEA or non-KSHSAA sponsored honor ensembles that take place locally, regionally, or on a state level. We strongly encourage participation in these ensembles; however, the VCHS Band Program, Band Aide, and USD 262 will not be held financially responsible for any fees (entry, travel, or otherwise) associated with the ensemble.

Top 10 Things You Should Know as a Band Student

Survival tips from other band students!

1. ALWAYS be on time, which actually means 10-15 minutes early.
2. When in doubt, stop talking.
3. Show respect to everyone and listen to what older members have to say.
4. Don't think you know everything. We all have things to improve upon.
5. We are very good at what we do because we're a family and we all have each other's back.
6. Don't get on the marching field without a dot book!
7. Know how to work, and know how to relax, but know that the two don't ever happen at the same time.
8. Keep up on your schoolwork!
9. You will get called out eventually. Don't be afraid or take it personally when it happens. Learn from your mistake and move on.
10. You may want to quit at times...BUT DON'T GIVE UP!

Top 10 Things You Should Know as a Band Parent

1. Your student is probably more capable than you realize! Try to gradually hand over responsibility to your student and let them communicate with us about scheduling conflicts, grading questions, etc. If we have questions or concerns, we will definitely follow up with you, as the parent.
2. **Please read your Parent Portal messages and email blasts from us!** Electronic communication is the most efficient way for us to get information out to the masses. You may get multiple messages from us in a day, but we would rather overshare than not communicate enough.
3. Come join us and see what your kids are up to! Feel free to jump out of the car and watch part of a band or color guard rehearsal. Volunteer to help build equipment or be a part of the Band-Aide! This program has many moving parts, and you'd be amazed at what we're up to!
4. **PARKING**-as a band, we will always **LOAD AND UNLOAD** on the east side of the school by the band room doors. We know that many of you are accustomed to dropping your student off right outside the band room, but when we return from competitions, trips, band festival, etc., the buses will pull up right by the curb, and parents who have parked right outside in the narrow lane impede the progress for everyone. Please leave that space open and use the parking lot on the south side of the school.
5. We really can't do this without you! Please volunteer and consider coming to the Band-Aide meetings! We will ask you on many occasions to please commit time, money, energy, and donations to the band program. Like many sports teams, we rely on our parent volunteers for things to run smoothly, and it's a great way to meet other band parents! Band-Aide meetings occur on the 3rd Thursday of every month from 7:00-8:00. You will find out what's going on, what is needed, and Verboom/Jolly answer questions and give updates. **THERE IS NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY TO VOLUNTEER!** ☺ We have need for everything from building equipment and props, to pit crew/hauling equipment to passing out water bottles. There really is something for everyone!
6. Bring money, warm clothes, and something to sit on when you come to band competitions. Marching band invitationals usually cost \$10-\$15 for admission, and it's usually chilly!
7. August-November is extremely busy. We do our best to maintain an online calendar on the website and send out reminders of events. Please help your student learn how to manage their time wisely.
8. Band Directors are people, too. We work very hard putting in long hours to ensure that your student has the best experience possible. However, the reality is that there are two of us for approximately 430 district band students. If you have a concern, please by all means, contact us to make us aware of it. Please also try to utilize your resources, however, for general information (this handbook, the website, other band parents, your band student). Band and guard requires discipline and dedication from all students. We often speak loudly, directly, and sometimes without pleasantries. When mistakes are made, especially due to lack of focus or effort, there are often consequences. Please try to allow our process to work. Encourage your student to listen and work hard. Everyone wants your student to be successful, and we value everyone's individual contribution to the band! As a note: we will never use profanity or derogatory comments towards your student, and it will not be tolerated out of staff, either. If you have a concern, please contact one of us.
9. We often have a lot of early morning and late nights during marching season. It's not unusual for us to leave at 6:00 am (or earlier!) and return at 1:00 am on a Saturday competition. If you sign up for REMIND text alerts (PARENTS ONLY text @vchsband to 81010) then you will get text messages letting you know when we're leaving, ETA, etc.
10. Yes, this is worth it! All of the effort and time you put in getting your child to practices, parades, competitions is worth it! Your student may get discouraged at first with the sweaty rehearsals, endless repetitions, and disappointments. Then the show starts to come together and everything

changes. There is new energy and excitement! Most of the kids love the end process by the time everything comes together, so please encourage them to tough it out. When asked to describe the band program in one word, most of our student leaders say “Family.” We may be dysfunctional at times, but we love and take care of each other!

Student Athletes and Band Members

With proper communication and effort, it is absolutely possible to participate in athletics and band. When scheduling, we try to avoid as many conflicts as we can, but that is not always possible. We always try to work with the coaches, and never want students to ultimately end up “choosing” one activity over another. We do ask that you keep the following in mind:

1. Marching band in the Fall is usually the only time we deal with major conflicts. Most of the time the rest of the year conflicts are avoided.
2. If students have an athletic activity (meet, tournament, etc.) on the same day as a marching competition, we ask that students and parents commit to trying to attend both. Transportation in this instance will not be provided by the school. We have had many kids play in volleyball tournaments on Saturday morning, then jump in a carpool to dash to Shawnee Mission or Topeka to compete with the band in the afternoon.
3. Band only has three competitions (which are graded performances). Athletics usually have upwards of 10-20 games/meets in a season.
4. These considerations only apply to KSHSAA approved sports and activities. Conflicts caused by club athletics will not be excused (more on that definition later).

Student Conduct and Personal Responsibilities

1. BE PROFESSIONAL and exhibit self-discipline during rehearsals. Don’t talk, and maintain interest and focus on the goals at hand. Cooperate with whomever is in charge of your group at the time.
2. Be mature enough and respectful enough to consider your surroundings and your audience, whether alone or with others. Show class and dignity at all times!
3. **KEEP ALL GRADES UP. It is your responsibility to maintain academic eligibility according to VCHS and KSHSAA guidelines so you may participate with the band.** Your actions have ramifications on everyone, not just you.
4. Only instrumental music students should enter the band room. Do not ask someone else to pick up your instrument from the band room unless it is your parent or guardian.
5. BE RESPECTFUL. Respect all members of the program including, other members, volunteers, Ms. Jolly, Mr. Verboom, staff members, and most importantly yourself. Verbal, written, or physical harassment of other students, staff, or parents will never be tolerated.

Phone/Electronic Device/Social Media Policy

-Phone/electronic device use is prohibited in class, with the following exceptions: 1. Drillbook App (marching band) 2. Tuner/metronome (at the beginning of class only). Failure to follow this policy will result in one verbal warning, followed by the confiscation of the device for the remainder of the class period.

-Negative, derogatory, and inappropriate comments regarding VCHS Staff, ANY VCHS Program or Activity, or an outside band program or member on any social media platform will **not** be tolerated. Consequences will depend upon the severity, but may include/are not limited to a meeting with parents/directors/administration, suspension from the next activity, office referral, or removal from the band program.

Attendance

The VCHS Band and Guard Program's success and goal for excellence is dependent upon your attendance and participation. Members of our program are required to participate in any and all mandatory activities connected to the band and guard performances, unless prior arrangements have been made. Most conflicts can be resolved through early communication!

Tardies: Tardies during the school day are handled in conjunction with the VCHS Student Body Policies. Please keep in mind that 3 school day tardies equates to 1 absences, and after 10 absences, students are removed from the class and do not receive credit. Tardiness to outside of school rehearsals will result in a partial loss of rehearsal points. You are considered tardy if you are not in your assigned spot (chair or field) when the bell rings to start class.

Absences: The curriculum of our band program moves quickly, and absences, whether excused or unexcused, can cause a student a great deal of frustration as they try to learn what was missed. When one or more students are missing, it makes it very difficult to practice and perform our show. It is essential that all students attend pre-camp and band camp, as this is when spots are assigned. There may be shared spots in our performance ensembles. Students who frequently miss rehearsal, miss a performance, or who have not demonstrated the ability to execute the music and drill at a high level may be replaced by other members demonstrating a higher commitment to the group.

Rehearsals: Directors must be notified in advance, in writing, prior to the absence. Please complete a conflict form and turn it in to the directors. If a situation arises suddenly and the absence can't be communicated in advance, please email, text, or call as soon as possible. LETTING ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE BAND KNOW THAT YOU WILL BE GONE WILL NOT EXCUSE YOUR ABSENCE.

Performances: Participation is required at all performances. Missing a performance will result in a deduction in the student's grade. Conflicts with performances must be submitted in writing no later than two weeks prior to the performance, except for emergency or illness. Failure to notify directors of an absence will result in an automatic zero for the performance.

Excused Absences: With proper communication, the following are considered excused absences:

1. Medical emergency or personal injury
2. Death in the family
3. Religious obligations
4. Special circumstances (with director approval)

Unexcused Absences: Please be aware that the following are considered unexcused absences:

1. Work
2. Oversleeping
3. No transportation
4. Non-school related events
5. Birthday parties

Other School Conflicts: Should a conflict arise that involves band and another school related activity (sports, musical rehearsals, etc) the student should arrange to miss an equal amount of time from each event. Club sports, homework, class projects do not fall under this category.

ACT: We encourage students to take the ACT at a time other than the October testing date, but if it is unavoidable, then students are expected to join us at our competition site after the test is completed, providing their own transportation. Students who choose to not join us will have an unexcused absence, which will result in a 0 for that performance.

Communication Methods

Band Website: www.valleycenterband.com

Remind: PARENTS ONLY text @vchsband to 81010 to receive reminders, travel alerts, etc. STUDENTS ONLY text @vc2020 to 81010 to receive reminders and alerts. Remind.com changed their terms of use for free accounts and only allows 150 participants per class, so we had to split parents and students into two separate classes. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Parent Portal: Email messages-please make sure you read!

Facebook Groups: Valley Center Bands, Guard, and Drumline (three separate pages)

Band Aide Organization

The Valley Center Band Aide is a volunteer parent service organization dedicated to supporting the VC Instrumental Music Program by providing financial support (through fundraising), personnel support, and assisting the directors with various activities throughout the year. They generally meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month in the high school band room at 7:00 pm. More information about the Band Aide can be found by on the VCHS Band website. Anyone interested in joining the Band-Aide or assisting with various VC band functions should contact Ms. Jolly, Mr. Verboom, or Band-Aide President Paul Wiebe at vcbandaide@gmail.com for more information.

Financial Information and Fees

Participation in our band program means you understand the financial obligations set forth. Often we have financial needs that are not covered by the school district. You will be notified in advance of all costs and given a timeline for payment.

Student accounts: Each student in the program has an individual account that they began building in middle school with our food fundraisers. Students can use the money in that account to pay for shoes, shirts, gloves, trip payments, etc, but may NOT access it for cash (i.e. spending money-these are IRS regulations for not-for-profit organizations.). Graduating seniors who have younger siblings in the high school program can roll remaining funds into that sibling's account; otherwise funds become part of the general Band-Aide budget. Students who leave the program with money in their individual accounts forfeit any money in their individual accounts to a younger sibling in high school, or the general fund. Students wishing to use funds to pay for things must fill out a withdrawal slip, available in the band room.

Procedures for making payments: Please put student name and what the money is for on the outside of all envelopes. Check can be made payable to VC Bands. Do NOT under any circumstances just leave money on a desk.

The following are band fees-district fees are payable through Parent Portal, band fees are paid directly to Jolly with checks made out to VC Bands.

- **Marching Band Uniform Cleaning Fee:** \$10 per person (district fee)
- **District Owned Instruments:** Board approved, \$20/month-district instrument rental fee (anyone using a school owned instrument or equipment, including percussionists). Please note that this covers normal “wear and tear” only (examples: sticky valves, replacing pads every 4-5 years, broken drum heads, loose or missing screws. If a student is found misusing or damaging a school instrument beyond what would be considered normal (examples: dropping the instrument-don’t let those “accidents” happen!, sitting on an instrument, leaving it in an extremely hot or extremely cold car (causes major damage to woodwind pads and brass valves) throwing or otherwise being rough with the instrument), the financial obligations for repair fall to the student and his/her family. **This is a board approved, district fee that was implemented during the summer of 2015. Exceptions may be granted for students qualifying for free or reduced lunch; these requests must be submitted in writing to Jamie Lewis and Cory Gibson. Please direct any further questions to Central Office.
- **Show Shirt (band fee, new every year-all students must purchase):** \$10
- **New Shoes (band fee, all new students MUST purchase shoes):** \$35
- **Used shoes (band fee, must have in stock in the correct size):** \$20
- **Gloves (band fee):** \$2/pair, everyone gets two pairs
- **Pep Band Fees (band fee)**
 - **\$30 for polo shirt**
 - **\$15 for food**
- **Reimbursement fees**
 - **If a student signs up for honor band tryouts or solo and ensemble and fails to follow through on their commitment, then the student is expected to reimburse the high school for their entry fee.**

Note on Privately Owned Instruments: Please note that USD 262, Valley Center High School, the Valley Center High School Band Program and any of its affiliated directors and staff are not financially responsible for any damages done to privately owned instruments. This includes damages that may occur as a result of activities during marching band, concert band, or due to the actions of any individuals participating in the above named activities.

Fundraising: We try to give students several opportunities for fundraising throughout the year. We always do a frozen food sale in November, which is money specifically for student accounts. We also hold at least two car washes, a chili feed and/or Dinacert, and occasionally will work concessions stands for the benefit of the general fund. We also have had opportunities to work WSU concessions, in which the profit is split between the student account and the general Band-Aide fund.

Sponsorships: The VC Band-Aide will once again be soliciting sponsorships to build up our general fund. If you are interested in helping us obtain sponsorships or want to be a sponsor, please email Lisa Isham at lisaisham@cox.net.

Rehearsal Schedule-all rehearsals are at VCHS unless otherwise noted
All rehearsals are REQUIRED!

Pre-Season Rehearsals: July 31-Aug. 2, 9-noon

Band Camp: Aug. 5-9, 8:00-4:00

Pre-Season Rehearsals: Aug. 13 and 15, 6:30-8:30

**Failure to attend any or all of pre season or band camp may result in an alternate spot placement or removal from the program.*

1st Hour Band Every Monday: 7:45-8:34

Early Morning Rehearsals Tuesday-Friday (starting Aug. 20-Oct. 25): 7:10am-8:34

Monday night rehearsals for Color Guard and Drum Line ONLY: 6:30pm-8:30pm

Thursday evening GUARD ONLY rehearsals: 6:30-8:30

October 18th: There is no school this day due to parent teacher conferences: however, with a football game that night and competition the next day, plan on having a rehearsal, time TBA. This will also be the night of the band tailgate (more info on that later).

Marching Band Performance Schedule (also online at www.valleycenterband.com)

Home Football Games:

- Sept. 6
- Sept. 13
- Sept. 27
- Oct. 18
- Regional playoffs (TBD)

Parades/Festivals/Competitions:

- Sept. 21-VC Fall Festival Parade
- Oct. 5-Friends University Homecoming Parade and Halftime Show
- Oct. 12-Shawnee Mission North Invitational
- Oct. 19-Kansas Bandmaster's Association, Topeka, KS
- Oct. 26-Neewollah Parade and Festival, Independence, KS

Concert Dates: (Subject to Change)

- December 16
- March 23
- May 4

Expectations/Procedures for Class, Football, and Travel

Room Cleanliness:

- Only H₂O permitted in the band room. Please eat your breakfast and keep other drinks in the cafeteria or foyer area. Clean up your trash!
- There will be NO food or drinks allowed in the middle school band room. We have new carpet-we need to keep it that way!
- Store bags, purses, and instrument cases in your cubby or neatly on the floor out of the way.
- Instruments/music need to be put away at the end of each rehearsal!
- Percussion area must be kept clean AT ALL TIMES. Sticks, mallets, and auxiliary equipment needs to be put away. Keyboard covers need to be replaced at the end of each rehearsal.
- Straighten chairs and stands after each rehearsal.
- **THIS IS NOT YOUR BEDROOM.** Do not leave coats, sweatshirts, jackets, extra shoes, t-shirts, etc. here in the band room.
- Stack chairs and stands on last day of week.
- LIBTYFI (Leave It Better Than You Found It)

Football Games Report Times:

- Drumline - 5:15pm.
- Drum Majors, Section Leaders- 5:30 pm.
- Color Guard - TBD by Instructors.
- Other Band Members - 5:45pm.
- A graded uniform check will be performed before every game; the performance begins when we march to the stadium and does not end until the end of the game. Show shirts **MUST** be worn under the band uniform or the band will not take their jackets off.
- Following the half time performance students will receive 3rd quarter off. It is imperative that proper behavior and respect for the school, band and uniform be maintained during this time. The uniform must be worn properly at ALL times. Jackets remain ON unless otherwise specified.
- Students will return to the stands **ONE MINUTE PRIOR TO THE END OF 3RD QUARTER.** If this is violated the band will not be given 3rd quarter off at the next football game.
- Football players are expected to perform halftime of football games with the band, unless you are a starter for the evening.
- ALL students will remain in full uniform and play until the conclusion of the game, and the entire band will be dismissed as a whole from the stands.
- Good sportsmanship must be observed. The band is one of the primary spirit units of the school and will support the team with enthusiasm. Any negative cheers or comments toward visiting teams or our own team is strictly forbidden. **SUPPORT THE CHEERLEADERS!**
- Water will be provided to all band students.
- No trash is to be left in the band section-LIBTYFI!!! Different sections will be responsible for clean up after each game.

Competitions/Parades/Trips/Travel:

- The marching band will attend competitions/festivals during the fall marching season and participate in the VC Fall Festival parade.
- All band members are required to perform in the parade. Cheerleading and dance team members are the exception.

- Information about trips will be available online, via letters, and additional classroom handouts as deemed necessary.
 - Please be aware that we often leave very early and arrive home very late (after midnight). This is common, especially if we are attending a competition that has a preliminary round and a finals round.
 - When the band travels, we travel together on buses. The general rule is that we travel to the site together, but you may ride home with parents once we have finished for the day. Band directors must see the student and parent together before leaving. All school and band rules are in effect while on trips- use common sense on the bus and respect all of the directions given by chaperones, staff, drivers, and directors.
- **BUS RULES:**
 - *Buses must be cleaned and clear of all trash BEFORE exiting!
 - *Must have earbuds/headphones
 - *No switching buses
 - *No sharing blankets
 - *Must remain in seats-no sleeping on floors!
 - *Drinks must have lids

Uniform Care and Guidelines

Marching Band: *Your marching band or guard uniform is solely YOUR responsibility. VCHS supplies each student with a marching uniform, (bibbers, jacket) a hanger, duffel bag, rain overcoat, shako, and shako box. All members are responsible for obtaining black Drillmaster marching shoes, black socks, and black gloves. Ms. Jolly and Mr. Verboom will order shoes and gloves upon receiving sizes and payments from the students. Returning band members may use the shoes and gloves purchased from previous years as long as they are in good condition. When purchasing shoes and gloves, checks should be made out to VCHS. The following is a guide for the ways the uniform must be treated:*

General care:

- 1) Uniform MUST be hung up neatly after each use to prevent wrinkling. If your uniform is found hung up incorrectly or crumpled at the bottom of your uniform bag, then you will spend time after the next game or competition helping the uniform captain check uniforms.
- 2) Uniforms should be hung up in the correct spot on the uniform rack. Find your name and hang it there, every time!
- 3) Shakos get stacked as closely to your name on the rack as possible.
- 4) Leave garment bags unzipped after wearing the uniform and sweating heavily to allow it to air out.
- 5) Plumes get picked up and turned into a parent volunteer after EVERY performance. Do this first thing-do not be left with your plume after the boxes have been put away! Parents only touch the plumes, while wearing gloves. The oils from your fingers will cause the feathers to break down.
- 6) Do NOT store your shoes in your garment bag. They will rip! Take them home after every performance! Also put your name on the insides of your shoes with permanent marker.
- 7) Flutes and clarinets cut the tips of their gloves-section leaders will help with this.
- 8) DO NOT HEM UNIFORMS unless given specific approval from directors. Our uniforms come with snaps on the inside of jackets and bibbers that allow for adjusted length.
- 9) Uniforms may NOT be washed-they are dry clean only. They are cleaned at the end of every season. Any cleanings needed during the season will be done at your expense and time.

Performance:

- 1) LONG BLACK SOCKS need to be worn with your uniform at every performance. Do NOT wear ankle length socks.
- 2) Show shirts are part of your uniform and should always be worn under bibbers. Make sure you wear comfortable shorts underneath as well.
- 3) Shakos are always to be worn correctly. When carrying your shako and horn, shako is held in right hand, horn in left.
- 4) Do not EVER walk around with jackets unzipped or bibber straps hanging down. We either wear the entire uniform correctly or directors will tell you that jackets may come off. If jackets are allowed to be taken off, then they need to be properly hung up and stored in garment bag.
- 5) Remember that the UNIFORM IS A SYMBOL OF THE SCHOOL AND THE BAND AND SHOULD BE TREATED WITH RESPECT.

Hanging your uniform:

- 1) Line up the pleats at the front of the pants together so they are parallel to each other making the pants flat. Place bibbers on the hanger by going in between the bar of the hanger and the rod.
- 2) Gauntlets are velcroed together and placed in the back zipper pocket of the uniform bag.
- 3) Jacket is hung up over the bibbers with the shoulders well over the sides of the hanger. Jacket should be zipped up to ensure it doesn't fall off the hanger.
- 4) Uniform goes in the garment bag and hung in your spot on the uniform rack or placed underneath bus if travelling.
- 5) Plume gets turned into parents as you walk by (say thank you!) and shako get placed in its case.

Uniforms must be returned and checked in before the end of the FALL SEMESTER. A uniform check in date will be scheduled and shared with all students. If a student is notified that damage beyond normal wear is found on their uniform the student and parent/guardian will be billed for the repair or replacement of the uniform. **Senior students who have been billed for repair damages or the cost to replace the item(s) must pay prior to Graduation Day. School policy states that students with outstanding balances will not be allowed to walk at Graduation.**

Color Guard Uniforms:

Color guard uniforms will change from year to year to fit the theme of the marching show. Color guard dues pay to rent the uniforms and equipment, all of which must be returned from year to year. Shoes may be purchased to keep.

Concert Band: Men (Concert Black Attire)

- Black Slacks or Dress Pants
- Black Dress Shirt
- Black Dress Shoes-can use marching shoes
- Black Socks

Women (Concert Black Attire)

- Black Slacks or Dress Pants-NO SKIRTS. If you have a formal, full length concert dress you may wear that. If you come wearing a skirt or any other dress, you will not be allowed to perform, and will lose your performance points.
- Black Dress Shirt or Blouse-no backless shirts, shoulders must be covered
- Black Dress Shoes-can use marching shoes
- Black Socks

**NO LOGOS, COLORS OR DEVIATION FROM THIS OF ANY KIND WILL BE ALLOWED!
ALL BLACK ONLY!**

Lettering Information

Letters will be made available for those who qualify by accumulating a total of 12 points. Points will accumulate over the course of 4 years.

Points shall be distributed as follows:

1. Obtaining a leadership position - 1 pt. per year.
2. Being selected for All District - 1 pt. per year.
 - a. .5 - auditioning
3. Being selected for All State - 2pts. per year.
 - a. .5 - auditioning
4. Regional Solo/Ensemble Performance - per year.
 - a. I Rating - 1 pt.
 - b. II Rating - .5 pt.
5. State Solo/Ensemble Performance - per year.
 - a. I Rating - 2 pts.
 - b. II Rating - 1 pt.
6. Receiving Private Instruction - 1pt. per year.
7. Participating in Summer Music Programs/Camps - 1 pt. per year.
8. Local Area Honor Ensembles - 1 pt. per year.
9. Jazz Band/Pep Band - 1 pt. per year.
10. *Directors may assign points for various other student participations/actions.*

Student Leadership

*For any organization to be successful its members must assume a certain degree of ownership. **Only when the members realize that it is they themselves that are in control of the band, will they learn what it is to be an independent musician.** The leadership team should strive to always set an example by their behavior.*

Drum Majors: Drum Majors assume leadership roles in all marching performances of the Valley Center Marching Band. Auditions for these positions are held in the spring and awarded to the students who best demonstrate leadership and musicianship. Drum Majors are required to attend a Drum Major Camp or Academy each summer.

Section Leaders: The section leaders assume leadership roles in their sections. These positions are awarded to the individuals who demonstrate leadership and dedication to the band program. Interviews are held in the spring at the end of the school year. Their responsibilities include, but are not limited to, scheduling sub-sectionals, tracking attendance, distributing new music, teaching their peers, holding uniform checks, and serving as role models.

Scholarships and Awards

Colleges are always anxious to award scholarships to instrumental students who have a good fundamental background in music. Students do not always need to be music majors in order to take advantage of scholarship opportunities. Many colleges offer stipends to students who simply participate in the university marching and pep bands. Please feel free to inquire at any time concerning the availability of scholarships.

In addition to numerous scholarships offered by various universities throughout the nation, VCHS offers a music scholarship as well. Information concerning this scholarship can be found by visiting the VC Instrumental Music Program website. (<http://vcbands.webs.com>)

Scholarships:

George Naylor Instrumental Music Scholarship

- A one-time award of \$500.00 given each year to a graduating senior who plans to continue the study of music in college. Students enrolling as a music major will receive first priority for this scholarship-if this is not applicable, the scholarship will be opened up to those planning to participate in music at the collegiate level. This scholarship is awarded by a panel of judges, with at least one administrator on the panel. The VCHS Band-Aide reserves the right to not award the scholarship at any time, if the appropriate criteria is not met.

Awards:

- **John Phillip Sousa Award:** Created in 1955, the award honors the top student in a high school band and recognizes superior musicianship and outstanding dedication. The recipient of this award must be a senior and is chosen by fellow band members.
- **Louis Armstrong Award:** Created in 1974, this award honors the top jazz musician in a high school jazz band and recognizes superior musicianship and outstanding dedication. The recipient of this award must be a senior and is chosen by fellow jazz band members.
- **Outstanding Class Awards:** These awards honor a member of the Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior classes who has demonstrated dedication, hard work, and musicianship. Recipients of these awards are chosen by fellow band members.
- **Hornet Service Award:** This awards a senior who throughout their high school band career has provided a great deal of service, dedication, and enthusiastic support for the organization.

VCHS Band and Guard Commitment Form

By signing and returning this form, the students and parents/guardians of the VCHS Band and Guard Program agree to the following:

- 1) I have read this handbook and agree to follow all guidelines in them.
- 2) I agree to meet the financial obligations outlined.
- 3) Students will be in attendance at all rehearsals/performances unless appropriate communications have been given, as outlined in the handbook.
- 4) I agree to return the Medical Release Form. (Must have for travel)
- 5) I understand that this is a commitment, and the rest of the band and staff are relying on me to follow through.

Student name _____ Grade _____

Student signature _____

Student email _____

Parent/Guardian Name (please print) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Email _____

Parent/Guardian Address _____

Parent/Guardian Phone (work) _____ Parent/Guardian (cell or home) _____

To the Parent or Guardian: Are you interested in volunteering for Band-Aide in any aspect? Please circle what you would be willing to help with.

Equipment Repair Pit Crew (moving things) Building Props Chaperoning

Attending Band-Aide Fundraising Ironing Uniforms Dinaucert/Chili Feed Other Needs