

**VHS Band Marching Band**

**Student/Parent Handbook**

**2024**

**Valley High School Band**

**1821 State Route 728**

**Lucasville, Ohio**

**Tyler Payne: Director of Bands**

**Matt Petry: Percussion/Sound**

**Morgan Bundy: Colorguard**

**FORWARD**

**CONGRATULATIONS** on your decision to be part of the fine tradition of the Valley High School Band Program! This handbook is designed as a guide for both parents and students to give specific details concerning all aspects of the band program. For any further information, please feel free to call the VHS office at 740 - 259-3115. Please join and stay up to date with the band Facebook (VHS Band/Colorguard) page for updates throughout the year. The “Remind” application for Iphone and Android will also be utilized this year. More information about that will be provided during camp

**BAND ORGANIZATIONS**

Band is a full year course consisting of Two distinct “seasons”. The fall semester is primarily considered the marching season while the winter and spring is considered pep band and concert season. The following is a brief description of the various groups that are associated with the VHS Band Program.

**MARCHING BAND**

Director: Tyler Payne

The marching band is made up of students from concert band. . The VHS Marching Band has a long history of great traditions, success, and pride. The VHS Marching Band is required to perform at **ALL** VHS football games, and all scheduled marching band contests. Marching Band rehearses every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday after school from 2:50pm until 4:30pm. After school rehearsals are required and will reflect students grades in Band. Attendance is expected as well as required to create a successful band program. How you perform/participate in Marching band will reflect your final grade for the Fall grading periods.

**PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS**

\***Any excused absence by Valley Middle/High School, is a valid excused absence by the VHS Band Program\***

A fall band calendar is enclosed for your use in planning your family schedule for the 2022-2023 school year. **Each** band student is important to the success of our many activities. We **must** be able to count on 100% attendance at these rehearsals and performances. If a family emergency occurs unexpectedly, **PARENTS/GUARDIANS** please call the school office at 740 - 259-3115 ex. 3132. Please leave your name, and a message if we are unable to answer right away. Occasionally, there may be family commitments (weddings, graduations, etc); in which case, we will **try** to be flexible and work with you on and individual basis. This must be discussed in detail **WELL IN ADVANCE** (a month or more!)

Student job commitments and “school sports” are **NOT** areasons for an excused absence from band performances or rehearsals! Many band students work and participate in “sports activities” and participate successfully in band. I (Mr. Payne) suggest that these students take of copy of the “yearly band calendar” to his/her employer and/or coach and clear all band performances and rehearsals. It is likely most employers are very understanding and are flexible **if** they known of band commitments well in advance, and they understand that band performances and rehearsals are a **required** and a vital part of the course work. Work with employers and coaches to clear Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday rehearsals from 2:50-5:00pm, and any calendar event performances. (The VHS Music Staff are glad to talk to any employer or coach to validate student commitment.) ***If a band student has an unexcused absence from a performance/rehearsal, they are subject to immediate removal from the band program at the directors discretion.***

**If for any reason you leave rehearsal without prior approval you will be removed from the program at the discretion of the Band Director.**

**REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS**

In band rehearsals, we not only deal with a creative process, but with a many more students at one time than other classroom teachers. Because of this, it is imperative that band students be **organized** and **prepared** for every rehearsal. When an individual is not able to play his/her musical instrument during rehearsal, it hurts the GROUP as well as the individual. It is important that the student’s musical instrument is in good working condition, that (s)he has a pencil to mark his or her music, and that (s)he has important accessories such as drill books, mutes, reeds, and valve oil for **EVERY** rehearsal. It is also obvious that the creative process in which we are involved cannot take place unless there is a quiet, attentive atmosphere in the classroom. Students who do not live up to the high rehearsal expectations of the VHS Marching Band face a potential cut in their final grade OR removal from the VHS Band Program.

**GRADING**

Grading in band is based upon participation and playing evaluations. Grades for band students are usually higher than the norm. Students belong to our program because they “want to”, not because they “have to”! Band students receive a grade for each performance attended such as football games, concerts, competitions, etc. Students will receive additional grades based on daily participation, sectionals, playing & written tests, etc. Students must have equipment in good working order and be present at all required rehearsals and performances for their participation grade. If these expectations are not met, the participation grade will be affected. A Make up assignment may be given to students with excused absences.

**ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY**

All music organizations adhere to the eligibility rules and regulations as stated by the handbook at VHS. To be eligible for the VHS Marching Band or color guard, students must be in 8th grade or higher. 6th and 7th graders will not be eligible to march.

Any student whose recorded nine weeks grade average **in any course** is lower than 65% at the end of the nine-week period shall be suspended from participation during the next nine-week period. However, a three week evaluation will be done for any student not academically eligible to perform three weeks after the grading period has ended, thus giving the student the opportunity to rejoin.

The VHS band staff will enforce all eligibility rules and regulations. Students who are ineligible will continue to rehearse during his/her band class, after school, and participate in curricular performances to earn his/her band grade. Ineligible students may not travel with the band or participate in extracurricular performances. An example of a curricular performance would be a spring concert and an extracurricular performance would be a football game halftime or any type of band contest. Students should always check on an event if there is a question of their participation. Be advised that excessive absences from school may also result in a student being declared ineligible.

The VHS Band Staff and the Valley High School Staff work very hard to assist and encourage band students to perform up to their potential in **ALL** classes. Since both Marching Band and Concert Band are group activities, each individual band student plays an important part in the success of the group. The band staff consults both with teachers and students for strategies for improving individual student performance. Obviously, we cannot be successful as a band unless our students are successfully passing **ALL** classes.

Students who are ineligible for 2 consecutive nine-week grading periods will be put on academic probation. If they do not become eligible the following nine-week grading period, they will be removed from the band program. This will allow the student to focus on passing academic classes during the next semester. Students wishing to be considered for reinstatement in band following this probation must bring documentation (report card) to the Director of Bands proving academic success during each grading period of the succeeding semester for all classes. Academic success is defined as passing all subjects during every grading period. Students must also maintain a clean discipline record with the school. This process is set up to help the academic success of the individual student.

**Band Leadership Positions**

Every organization requires 100% participation to function. This year every student will have a job within the organization. A new Band Leadership Council of your peers will be established to help identify strong and weak points in the ensemble. This council will be made up of two representatives elected from each high school grade. We will also have several “teams” that will be responsible for different jobs each day, game, and competition. The jobs will be assigned as I see fit. Student council members will still be placed on a team The hierarchy of band is as follows:

Band Director

Field Commander  
Band Leadership Council (BLC)

Team leader (assigned by Band Director)

Below are several teams that will have different jobs throughout the marching season. Each team will be taught their position throughout band camp:

**Trailer Team** - Responsible for loading and unloading equipment off of the trailer

**Uniform Team** - Responsible for checking each uniform before each performance this includes passing out plumes, issuing gloves, or fixing imperfections.

**Podium Team -** Responsible for moving the podium to and from the practice field, and football field.

**Music Librarian -** This single position team will be responsible for passing out new music, or making copies.

**Pit Team -** This team will be responsible for assuring the pit equipment is where it needs to be. This team will also be responsible for hooking up pit electronics.

**Hydration Team -** This team will be responsible for getting ice and water during each day of band practice.

Each team will have a team leader that will report to the Band Leadership Council (BLC) each day. The BLC will report to Mr. Payne at the end of each day during band camp, and every Monday following rehearsal after school.

**USE OF BAND HALL FACILITIES**

Students are welcome to use the band hall practice rooms for practice either before or after school as long as a teacher is present in the room. Sometimes, however, the number of available places is limited, since both sectionals and private lessons take place before and after school. Due to the many thousands of dollars worth of musical instruments that are in the band hall, we do ask that ONLY band students come into the band hall during the school day and before or after school. Students must ask their friends who are not in the band to wait for them either in the school hallway or outside. The Band Room is a “safe haven.” We stress to all band students to be responsible and keep their equipment LOCKED UP in their lockers at all times. If instruments are left unlocked, they may be confiscated and a storage fee will assessed to “bail” out the instrument. Many times “clean-up” duty is assigned to those “untidy” housekeepers to help develop organizational skills.

**SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS**

VHS provides school musical instruments to students who are in need but students are encouraged to obtain their own instruments. If an instrument is loaned to any student, that student will be held responsible for that instrument. Percussion, Low Brass, Double reed instruments, and low woodwind instruments will be provided to the students that wish to play them, **BUT** these instruments come in limited numbers. **Any damage during the year is the responsibility of the band student who has signed for the instrument.** We expect the instrument to be returned in the same condition as when issued. Dings, dents, and other damage will be repaired at the students expense. If an instrument is lost or stolen during the season, it is the **students responsibility** to replace the instrument.

**BAND UNIFORMS**

**Uniform Specialist: Myra Parker**

It is a **privilege** to wear the VHS Band uniform. Make sure you have all parts of the uniform at each performance. **KEEP YOUR UNIFORM CLEAN AND PRESSED!** If your uniform does not meet the high standard required in the VHS Band, you are subject to being removed from a performance and not traveling with the band. This uniform is a symbol of pride and will be worn accordingly. **The director will determine the uniform for each performance and it must be worn exactly as instructed. Mrs. Parker will determine the guard uniform for each performance.** The uniform can get warm in the summertime and early fall, students are encouraged to wear **BLACK** shorts and their VHS band T shirt under the uniform. Band students who choose to wear the uniform incorrectly will be subject to extra work. Uniforms Jackets are not to be worn while eating or drinking anything but water. Below are some do’s and don’ts that will help you and your uniform look great at all times:

* **DO:** remember your VHS band shirt, **BLACK CALF HIGH SOCKS** and black marching band shoes each time you wear your uniform
* **DO NOT:** remove any material from the uniform if alterations are necessary.
* **DO:** transport your uniform in the garment bag provided and your hat in the hat box EVERY TIME!
* **DO NOT:** put your uniform in the garment bag wet, the smell will never go away EVER!
* **DO:** Take extra time and care when hanging your uniform. Pants hang folded on the crease, not the seat.
* **DO NOT:** attempt to wash and/or dry your uniform at home unless instructed to do so.
* **DO:** remember to bring your instrument in spite of your excitement for the uniform!

**Summer Uniform**

* VHS Band T shirt
* Black Shorts
* Black socks
* Black shoes

**UNIFORM ACCESSORIES**

The VHS uniform and all the major accessories are required at all performances and will be provided by the VHS schools, band students **will still need to provide** their own:

* Black calf high socks
* Black Band Gloves (First pair is free, $4 a pair after that)
* Black *Drillmaster* Band Shoes. Tennis Shoes or dress shoes are not acceptable.)
* Their VHS Band T shirt (First one is free, if students want more than one they will have to purchase each shirt after their first one.)

Shoe fitting and cost information will be provided during registration at the beginning of each marching season. Students **MUST HAVE THE SAME SHOES**

**I have read the VHS Band Program Handbook and understand all of the information Provided. I understand that I, (Print Name) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**will be a direct representation of the Valley Local School District and will give no person or group any reason to think nothing but the best about the Valley Band Program and the Valley Local School District.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Student Signature Date**

**I have read the VHS Band Program Handbook and understand and agree to all the information provided. I understand the commitments my student must make to participate in the VHS Band Program. I also understand the commitments I must make to support my student and the VHS Band Program**

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Parent/Guardian Name Printed**

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Parent/Guardian Signature Date Phone**