

**VERO BEACH HIGH SCHOOL  
2011 – 12**

**FIGHTING INDIANS BAND HANDBOOK**



**“TRADITION – PRIDE – EXCELLENCE”**

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## **VERO BEACH HIGH SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK 2010-2011**

The overall purpose of the band program is... **“to provide the students who comprise the membership of the Vero Beach High School Band the best educational and self-development process possible.”**

The band staff is committed to do all we can for our students.

This handbook has been written in order to provide band members, parents, and other interested persons with information concerning the various phases, activities, and policies of the band program at Vero Beach High School.

The policies, rules, traditions, and guidelines set forth are in place to provide a quality band experience for all students. Knowledge of the contents of this handbook will provide each student and parent with an understanding of how he / she may best contribute to the tradition of excellence within the Vero Beach High School Band program.

School rules and policies are enforced at all times when a student is directly or indirectly involved in any activity sponsored by or in the name of Vero Beach High School.

The band director(s) may suspend or amend any band policy at any time deemed necessary in the best interest of the overall band program.

The Vero Beach High School Band and its Directors are members of the Florida School Music Association and the Florida Bandmasters Association. The VBHS Band organization operates within the guidelines and policies of these two organizations along with those of Vero Beach High School and the School District of Indian River County.

### **VERO BEACH “FIGHTING INDIANS” BAND OBJECTIVES**

- Educational: To develop interested and well-trained musicians who are skilled in the basic fundamentals of solo, small ensemble, and large ensemble performance.
- Cultural: To foster the continued development of music appreciation and understanding through the study and performance of quality musical literature and repertoire.
- Service: To lend color and atmosphere to certain school and community affairs while promoting and enhancing the dignity and reputation of Vero Beach High School at all times.
- Citizenship: To develop the ability to function as a responsible member of the team, to enhance the students' ability to interact with others in a positive manner, and to develop the ability to function as a responsible member of the community.
- Recreational: To provide all students with opportunities for worthy use of leisure time, an emotional outlet, and wholesome, worthwhile social experiences.

### **MEMBERSHIP IN THE FIGHTING INDIANS BAND PROGRAM**

The band program is open to all interested students at Vero Beach High School who demonstrate appropriate respect for others, responsibility, desire, ability, and proper attitude to be a member of the group. Students desiring membership may be required to audition for membership and must have permission from the director(s) and the recommendation of their previous instructor. Students who are enrolled in co-curricular courses Band I through VI constitute the mainstream band program at Vero Beach High School. Band I through VI is a pre-requisite to enrollment in Jazz I through IV, and Instrumental Techniques.

Students will be placed at the discretion of the director(s). It should be understood that everyone will have an equal and fair opportunity for band participation. However, from time to time, it may become necessary to exclude or dismiss those students failing to meet the band's high standards of respect, responsibility, musicianship, conduct, or academic eligibility.

### **MEMBERSHIP IN THE AUXILIARY UNIT - "THE RAGE"**

Membership in the auxiliary unit of the band is open to all interested students at Vero Beach High School. Membership is determined by audition in respect to the number of persons needed for the unit. Uniforms for the auxiliary units will be provided by the school and determined by the director(s) in regards to style and type. Members of the unit are required to furnish accessories for their uniforms. Members must attend summer rehearsals, special clinics in the summer, and the annual band camp. "The Rage" is a year-long commitment and students receive Elective Credit for a full year of participation in good standing.

### **MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

All students must meet the State Department of Education, FSMA, and FBA eligibility requirements at the time of any festival or competition in which the student is participating. Otherwise the student will be ineligible to participate in that festival or competition. The eligibility regulations for festivals and competitions are as follows:

1. All tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade students must have and maintain a 2.0 overall cumulative GPA.
2. All incoming ninth grade students are automatically eligible until the end of their first semester of their ninth grade year, at which time they must have a 2.0 GPA as listed above.

### **ELIGIBILITY POLICIES**

1. Academically ineligible students may be assigned alternative assignments in lieu of participation in any band activity, event, or performance for which they may be ineligible.
2. Academically ineligible students may be removed from the football half-time show, contest show, concert, or other activity as appropriate to provide adequate time for the training of a replacement or adjustment of the routine or parts as deemed necessary by

## OVERVIEW OF EXPECTATIONS

Each member of the band is expected to meet the following basic requirements:

- Attend all rehearsals and performances
- Be prepared for rehearsals and performances
- Be on time for all classes, rehearsals, and performances
- Have all necessary items and dress for rehearsals and performances
- Keep their instrument, equipment, and uniform in performance condition
- Practice regularly at home and be responsible for musical or repertoire assignment
- Keep the band facility neat, clean, and free of litter
- Keep up with and be responsible for the music, instruments, and equipment issued to them
- Fulfill their “fair share” obligation (Fundraising)
- Demonstrate the “Three A’s” (See Below)
- The band encourages all students to attain the highest possible academic standards. It is the recommended goal that all band members strive to maintain a 2.5 GPA or higher.

## BASIC BAND PRINCIPLES

In order to attain the highest level of excellence, it is necessary that all members of the band adhere to the following, known as the “Three A’s.” These basic principles will assure each student’s success in all aspects of the band program.

**ATTITUDE:** Loyalty, spirit, unity, cooperation, self-control, patience, and good conduct as reflected in your willingness to work for the band, accept responsibility, and account for yourself according to good citizenship, tradition, and policies of the band.

**ATTENDANCE:** Dependability and accountability as an individual to be present and punctual at all events, rehearsals, performances. Daily class participation is of high importance.

**ABILITY:** Execution of your assigned musical and visual role through the progress you make in the execution of your assignment and responsibilities on a continuing basis. Dedicating time for individual practice and group rehearsal has a direct effect on the development of ability.

## HOW TO DEMONSTRATE THE “THREE A’S”

- Be the first, never the last, to rehearsals and performance
- Always have the required rehearsal equipment
- Wear the required rehearsal dress and formal uniform to all events and activities
- Be one of those students who is “always there” and can be counted on
- Prepare and master your part in advance - only your best is good enough
- Maintain silence and eye contact with the person in charge or speaking
- Stop playing and remain silent when the cut off to stop playing is given
- Exhibit enthusiasm and patience for practice and understand the need for repetition
- If you experience failure, analyze it and make a plan to improve
- Turn work into fun, enjoy rehearsing –hot, cold, or rainy
- Try to learn something new and improve each day
- Be humble and willing to serve – Demonstrate patience and composure at all times
- Prepare for the next rehearsal
- Do “YOUR” fair share in raising funds for the band

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD CONDUCT**

- Because of the nature of the organization, the good conduct of all members of the band must be exemplary in the areas of citizenship, adherence to the rules, and traditions of the band and school.
- Band members are constantly on display and each member must always be aware of the importance of the impression they make on others.
- Any infraction or incident casts a direct reflection on the band as a whole and the school and may well undo the good work of many dedicated students.
- Social Networking, while being a popular source of communication in the 21st Century, can also be used to cast a negative and often erroneous light on individuals and organizations. Band members are expected to refrain from posting any information on sites such as “Face Book”, “My Space”, or similar sites and blogs that may cast discredit upon the band. Doing so will place your “good standing” status in question.
- Students in high school are expected to use reasonable judgment in their actions and to avoid conduct and actions on their part that are unsafe for themselves and others. Band members have access to large facilities with very valuable equipment and must be responsible in the use and transport of that equipment. Likewise band members must traverse large distances while on campus to and from various facilities applying good judgment and reasonable actions on their part to maintain personal safety and that of others as well. Students unable to handle the level of maturity and responsibility required of band members are advised to remove themselves from the program. Horseplay endangering oneself or others is unacceptable.

### **PERSONAL CONDUCT and DEVELOPMENT UNITS (Levels I and II)**

The following is a general explanation of student behaviors and actions that result in the assignment of “Personal Development Units” intended to encourage the student to accept responsibility for his/her choices and actions that are detrimental to the band. Personal Development Units (Level I) provide a means for students to make atonement for infractions that may be handled at the band program level. Certain more serious conduct and actions may require administrative referral (Level II).

#### **Level I – Band Service Assignment (BSA)**

A student may be assigned a “BSA” (by staff only) for behaviors and infractions that occur during the course of rehearsals, performances, class situations, or for violation of general band rules. A BSA is equivalent to a minimum of 15 minutes of band service time to be served as assigned by the band director(s). BSA’s are generally expected to be served before the next band performance in the fall, and within 5 school days after the fall season is over. In the event a student can not clear a BSA on time by means of after school service, an alternative assignment that can be completed at home will be substituted. The alternative assignment must be completed by the stated deadline. In general BSA’s may be served on Monday or Wednesday afternoons between 2:30 and 3:00 pm, please make a definite appointment with the band office.

#### **EXAMPLES OF ACTIONS RESULTING IN BSA’S INCLUDE:**

- Improper rehearsal dress (shirt, shorts, shoes, gloves, other) – 1, 2 if multiple items
- Dirty uniform – 1, 2 (see uniform inspection pages 18-21)

- Dirty instrument or equipment – 1, 2 (see inspection pages 18-21)
- Unexcused tardy – 1 if 20 minutes or less, 2 if more than 20 minutes
- Cell phone violations - 1
- Food, gum, or drink at inappropriate times or places -1
- Repeatedly talking, disruptions on the field, moving around on the field or in class -1
- Rudeness to staff, leadership team, chaperones, others – 1 / 2
- Handling instruments, equipment, items or property not belonging to you - 1
- Leaving your position on the field, in class, or in the stands without permission - 1
- No instrument or equipment - 1
- Measures not numbered – 1 per selection
- No reeds, sticks / mallets, mouthpiece, or accessories - 1
- Locker infractions - 1
- Misc. Forgotten Items... (1 per item)
  - o Field Markers
  - o Drill Book or Coordinate Sheet
  - o Uniform Accessories
  - o Music or Folder
  - o Pencil
  - o Water Bottles
  - o Other items needed for rehearsals

New members will receive 3 warnings (strikes) before a BSA will be assigned.

Veteran members will receive 2 warnings (strikes) before a BSA will be assigned.

Failure to serve (clear) all BSA's as assigned (date / time) by the band director(s) will result in the following consequences as applicable:

- For the fall marching season, the student will not perform at the next halftime show and will be required to stand off the field in a dignified manner during the performance. This will continue weekly until all BSA's are cleared.
- After the fall marching season, students who do not clear their BSA's within the expected 5 school days will be subject to not performing with the band if the event is within 7 days or will receive an administrative referral if the event is more than 7 days in the future.

Excessive BSA's will result in a parent, teacher, and administrative conference being held to determine the future of the student in the band program.

### **Level II – Administrative Referral**

The following is a list of actions, behaviors, and infractions that will result in the student receiving the consequence of an "Administrative Referral." Students receiving the consequence will be officially written up and referred to the school administration for appropriate consequences and action. Such actions may include but are not limited to:

- General misconduct of a serious nature or any illegal act
- Disruption of rehearsal, performance, or class activities
- Gross disrespect
- Defiance of authority
- Gross rudeness, crass remarks / behaviors, or profanity
- Abuse / damage of instruments, uniforms, equipment, accessories, or band facilities
- Harassment, hazing, threats
- Fighting or arguing



- \* Percussion
- \* The Rage Visual Ensemble
- \* Drum Majors

## B. Concert Bands

- Personnel
  - \* All wind and percussion students in the band program; (Students are divided into two or three concert units)
  - Symphonic Band I – audition only;
  - Symphonic Band II – audition only;
  - Concert Band / Concert Band Techniques – audition only;
- Activities
  - \* Winter Concert
  - \* FBA District and State Festivals
  - \* Red, White, and Blue Concerts
  - \* Symphonic Band Camp
  - \* Spring Concert
  - \* After School Rehearsals
  - \* Special Concert Venues (Conventions / Festivals)
  - \* Public Services Performances & Performing Arts Concerts
  - \* Symphony Orchestra Performances as Assigned
  - \* Veterans Day & Memorial Day Concerts / Ceremonies
  - \* Graduation Ceremony and other School Ceremonial Events

## C. Jazz Ensemble(s)

- Personnel
  - \* Membership is open to all students enrolled in Band; subject to instrumentation requirements and audition.
- Activities
  - \* Jazz Ensemble I – IV – Performs Jazz Standards, Latin, Rock, and Contemporary music during the jazz band class.
  - \* Community Service Performances
  - \* FBA Festivals / Competitions / Conventions
  - \* Red, White, and Blue Concerts
  - \* School Service Events & Concerts

## D. "The Rage" Visual Ensemble

- Personnel
  - \*Members selected by audition
- Activities
  - \* Summer Band
  - \* Band Camp (2 Weeks)
  - \* Football Games, Pep Rallies, Parades
  - \* After School Rehearsals
  - \* Marching Festivals (FBA / Other Independent Festivals)
  - \* Winter Guard Festivals (FBA/ Other Competitions)
  - \* Crown Jewel Marching Festival
  - \* Public Service Performances

### E. Instrumental Ensemble / Instrumental Techniques Class

- Personnel \* Membership is open to all students concurrently enrolled in Band.
- Activities \* Instrumental Ensemble / Instrumental Techniques I-IV is open to all student interested in further studies in music. Course work will include introductions in music theory, music History, conducting, small ensemble playing, individual practice, and learning an additional instrument.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

### 1. LABORATORY ACTIVITIES (REHEARSALS)

- All rehearsals are MANDATORY!** The minimum expectation is 100% attendance.
- Excused:** Approved absences **with prior notice** will be excused and will require a make-up assignment.
- Unexcused:** All such absences will result in the student receiving a grade cut of up to 2 letters for the grading period. An unexcused absence from any rehearsal the week of a performance may result in the student not performing that week. If not performing, the student will be required to attend the performance as an observer or partial participant (off the field at halftime), or may be asked to serve on the logistics crew. If the performance involves overnight travel or missing school, the student may be unable to attend.
- Absences without prior notice:** Such absences will not be **excused.** (Exception: Emergencies)
- Unapproved with prior notice:** Such absences that occur without approval of the band director(s), even though advanced notice may have been given, will be classified as **unexcused.**
- Approved Absences for Extenuating Circumstances with Prior Notice:** Absences that occur with prior notice to the director(s) for approved reasons not normally considered as “excused” may result in a required make-up assignment. If the make-up is not completed, the absence will be reclassified as unexcused. These absences must be of a unique and one time only nature.

### 2. PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS (PERFORMANCES)

There are very few acceptable reasons or circumstances for missing a performance. Every student is a vital member of the team effort and absences not only affect the person missing, but also those around him/her causing a drop in performance level for all.

- All performances are MANDATORY!** The minimum expectation is 100% attendance.
- Excused:** Approved absences **with prior notice** will be excused with make-up.
- Unexcused:** All such absences constitute a grade of “F” for the grading period.
- Absences without prior notice:** Such absences will not be **excused.** ( Exception: Emergencies)
- Unapproved with prior notice:** Such absences that occur without approval of the band director(s), even though advanced notice may have been given, will be classified as **unexcused.**

**Approved Absences for Extenuating Circumstances with Prior Notice:** Absences that occur with prior notice to the director(s) for approved reasons not normally considered as “excused” may result in a required make-up assignment. If the make-up is not completed, the absence will be reclassified as unexcused. These absences must be of a unique and one time only nature.

### **3. CLASS ATTENDANCE**

It is vital that students attend class regularly and are absent only when necessary. Class absences will be excused according to VBHS policy. Playing time in class is a consideration in determining the band class grade. Excessive class absences can lower the student grade for the grading period. Check the class syllabus for specific class participation policies.

#### **Excused Absences (Rehearsals & Performances)**

If a band activity is to be missed, an excused absence may be granted only for the following reasons and by following the specific absentee procedures to request and document the necessity for the absence.

- Death in the Family
- Personal Illness: The student is generally expected to have a doctor’s note stating the student’s inability to perform and is expected to at least attend (as may be appropriate to the situation), the rehearsal or the performance and observe from the stands, sideline, or seat.
- Situations involving extenuating circumstances, unique situations of a one-time only nature, or circumstances relating to personal or family emergencies may be considered for approval on a case by case basis.
- Students who are actively participating and representing VBHS in an actual competitive activity may be excused from rehearsals at the discretion of the band director(s). Necessary field trips or similar activities may also be considered at the discretion of the band director(s). Students may not be excused from performances for the above type reasons.
- In the event of excessive absences (excused or not) the student may need to do some make up assignments. Please check in with the band office if you are experiencing a number of absences.

#### **Unexcused Absences (Rehearsals & Performances)**

- Non-emergency appointments, meetings, and other similar type events in general, must be scheduled around the band calendar and in most cases, will not be excused. In addition, birthdays, drivers license appointments, vacations during the school year, outings, community affairs, and other such events must also be scheduled around the band calendar and in most cases, will not be excused.
- Dual Enrollment / College Courses / Charter School: Students who schedule collegiate, dual enrollment, or charter school courses that conflict with the published band calendar or traditional band rehearsal or activity times (such as Tuesday / Thursday nights) will not be excused from band rehearsals or performances for this reason
- Work is not an excuse for missing any band activity. Please do not ask!
- Participation in outside musical organizations such as youth orchestras, community bands, and the like, are encouraged. However, students will not be excused from VBHS Band rehearsals or performances to participate in the activities.

- Students **may not** be excused to attend club meetings, team practices, or other similar events without prior approval from the director(s). Students will not be excused from rehearsals the week leading up to major performances or from dress rehearsals prior to an event.
- Unexcused absences from rehearsals or performances are not subject to being made up and will result in zero credit for each absence.

### **ABSENTEE PROCEDURES**

In order to obtain an excused absence, the following procedures must be followed by the student:

- **Pre-Arranged Absences:** The process of an absentee form must begin a minimum of 7 days in advance of any known need for an absence from a band rehearsal and 21 days in advance for a band performance. Pre-arranged absentee requests are for needs excluding unforeseen illness, family emergencies, or extenuating circumstances. Examples of absences that might fall into this category might include, but are not limited to, school related events such as competitions and field trips, or family events such as weddings or other major non-recurring events of a highly personal nature. The student is expected to present a fully completed Pre-Arranged Absentee Request Form on time to the band director(s)
- **Unforeseen Absences (Emergency):** Unexpected personal illness, accidents, and family emergencies as well as situations involving extenuating circumstances of a serious one time only nature may occasionally occur. In this event, the following procedures must be followed:
  - A. Parent must immediately notify the band directors of the situation and the need for the absence by phone or e-mail prior to the absence if possible or at the earliest possible time thereafter.
  - B. The student must present a signed emergency absentee form from the parent fully explaining the need for the absence and the specific details relating to the situation with 3 days after the return to school.
  - C. Time (refer to forms) is of the essence in securing an excused absence in this category. Situations not handled in a timely manner will be classified as “unexcused.”
  - D. The director(s) will review the information and make a determination as to the status of the absence (excused or unexcused).
- **Notice:** The mere filing of an Absentee Form does not guarantee an excused absence. The interpretation of these policies and procedures and subsequent decisions are at the discretion of the band director(s).

### **TARDINESS - “Early is on Time, On Time is Late!”**

Tardiness to band activities and functions is not acceptable. Students are expected to arrive on time to all activities. “On Time” means the student is prepared and in place for rehearsal or performance at the designated time. It is suggested that the students arrive at least 15 minutes in advance of the starting times for rehearsal. Excessive tardiness will result in the student being assigned a BSA or other consequences.

### ACCOUNTABILITY & MAKE-UP POLICY

Students are responsible for all playing / participation time missed, information, drill, repertoire rehearsed, or music performed at any band activity or in the class regardless of the status of the absence. Failure to assume this responsibility including any required make-up assignments will result in the absence becoming unexcused. It is necessary that students be accountable for playing and participation time missed for class, rehearsals, performances, and other activities as follows:

- **Class-work:** It is the responsibility of the student to be aware of and accountable for all information given out, announced, and literature / repertoire rehearsed in class along with the playing / participation time missed. Students who are absent from class are accountable for the content and playing time missed. Upon the return to the next class the student is expected to request make-up assignments appropriate to the time and activity missed. Refer to the class syllabus for specifics.
- **Rehearsals:** It is the responsibility of the student to be aware of and accountable for all information given out, announced, drill covered, and literature / repertoire rehearsed, and playing / participation time missed. Students who are absent from after-school and evening rehearsals are accountable for the content missed. Upon the return to the next class the student is expected to request make-up assignments appropriate to the time and activity missed. Refer to the class syllabus for specifics.
- **Performances:** Students who are absent from performances are accountable for the time missed. Upon the return to the next class the student is expected to request make-up assignments appropriate to the time and activity missed. Refer to the class syllabus for specifics.

### OTHER ACTIVITIES (Non Band)

It is understood that students are often interested in a variety of school and community activities. It is the policy of the band program to encourage participation in non-band activities and organizations. Every possible effort is utilized to make allowances for students active in athletics, academic organizations, or other worthy activities. Schedule conflicts with band and other activities are unavoidable from time to time. All parties concerned (parents, students, coaches, adult sponsors, etc.) must understand that participation is shared on a reasonable basis that allows for quality participation in both band and the other activity. In the event of a conflict with a band performance, the band performance will take priority.

When conflicts arise, the following steps are to be taken:

- Parents and students should notify all concerned parties of the problem WELL IN ADVANCE (at least a two week notice).
- All adults involved should meet together in a spirit of compromise to find a solution.
- If a workable solution cannot be found, the adults should agree on the activity that is to be missed as long as a Festival or Major Concert are not missed.
- Students may not miss rehearsals the week leading up to a Festival or Major Concert.
- In the event an agreement over the resolution of a conflict cannot be reached, a meeting with Mr. Eric Seymour, Principal is required. In the event Mr. Seymour or other administrator is not available the decision of the band director(s) is final.

NOTE: STUDENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO MISS FESTIVALS OR MAJOR CONCERTS, EXCEPT FOR SERIOUS PERSONAL EMERGENCIES.

Students who are participating in fall sports that present unworkable conflicts with band may be granted a waiver from the marching requirement until the conflict no longer exists. Spring sports are usually workable with effort on everyone's part.

### WORKING STUDENTS

If a student accepts employment they must have an understanding with the employer that they will endorse the band program by permitting the student to participate in all band functions. Work will not be accepted as an excuse for missing any band activity or obligation. Every effort will be made to provide adequate advanced notice for called rehearsals and other band events. Otherwise, it is the student's responsibility to clear their band schedule with their work as the band schedule is posted

### NON-MARCHING MEMBERS

In the event a student is in need of exemption from the marching activities of the band program, a conference with the Band Director(s) is required and the following policies will apply to any student granted such a waiver. Waivers will be approved upon the signing of a special contract for these situations as follows...

#### Fall Sports Waiver

Students who are granted a marching band waiver to play a fall sport WILL be required to learn the marching fundamentals and standard musical repertoire. These students are only exempt from rehearsals and performances directly in conflict with football games or practices. **Refer to special contract for this situation.**

#### Medical Waiver

In the event that a student, through a doctor's order, is unable to participate fully in the marching activities of the band or possibly the concert aspect of band, a specifically developed alternative plan providing for participation in the program will be developed to the furthest extent possible. No student with physical or health problems will be excluded from membership in the Vero Beach High School Band. It is however, expected that students with medical waivers participate in every aspect of the program NOT effected by their medical exemption. **Refer to special contract for this situation.**

Non-marching members are required to meet the following requirements:

- Attend summer band activities as appropriate. (See Contract for Specifics)
- Purchase official rain gear (band shirt, band shorts, white shoes, and white socks) and concert band accessories.
- Attend uniform fitting session during the summer as per published calendar
- Perform with the full band at all events except those in direct conflict with the specific fall sport. This will include parades, pep rallies, playing the stands at games, concerts, festivals, or other events on the band calendar. (See Contract for Specifics)
- Meet "fair share" requirement for all fundraisers.

\*Non-marching members have full membership benefits in the band program provided they meet the above requirements. Parents of non-marching members are encouraged to be involved with the Fighting Indians Band Boosters organization.

## GRADING POLICY

A. In general, grades in all band classes are based upon the following methods:

1. Curricular Participation
  - Daily class participation
  - Musical progress
  - Notebook

2. Laboratory and Practical Application Activities

- Rehearsals
- Performances

B. Your report card grade is determined by three factors.

- Musicianship- your ability and dependability to play your assigned part in the music, and the progress you make on your instrument as determined by the Director. Your progress can be enhanced by spending more time practicing your instrument.
- Attitude- your loyalty and cooperation as reflected in your willingness to work for the band as a team member.
- Participation- your dependability as an individual, attendance, and punctuality at all class rehearsals, after school rehearsals, performances, care of your instrument, music, uniform, and equipment.

C. Auditions.

- Auditions are generally held near the end of the 1st and 2nd semester each year and are usually considered as a portion of the semester exam. Audition results are used as a tool for grading / ranking purposes, part assignment, and band placements.
- Audition results, grades, and placements are Final. Audition recordings (if any), evaluation sheets, mass results, and other materials related to the auditions are confidential and not released. Individual parents and students may request a conference to review their individual auditions as to how the individual student may improve for the future.

## UNIFORM, EQUIPMENT, AND ACCESSORIES INSPECTION

It is required of all band members to keep their uniform, equipment, and accessories in tip-top shape at all times. An inspection of all uniforms or rehearsal dress, shoes, instruments, and equipment, and accessories will be conducted prior to each performance or rehearsal. **Students who have dirty, missing, or incomplete items may, be assigned a BSA, or may be restricted from performance if inspection violations warrant. Violations are as follows:**

- Dirty instrument / equipment
- Any dirty uniform part: shoes, gloves, socks, coat, pants, accessories, guard uniform
- Improper dress
- Personal hygiene

- Missing accessories (folders, music, make-up bags, water bottles, other similar items needed for performance)

## **INSPECTION CHECKLIST**

All of the following items will be checked during inspection situations.

### **A. Instruments**

#### 1. Cleanliness and Working Order

- Mouthpieces (clean, fresh, free of odor)
- Reeds (not broken, no lipstick marks, additional reeds available)
- Pads
- Valves/Slides
- Interior of instrument

#### 2. Overall Appearance and Condition

- Exterior free of dirt/dust, etc.
- Polished
- Prior to each performance, the interior of each instrument should be Cleaned (dirty instruments lead to illness)
- Neck straps (Saxes) uniform/standard (red)

### **B. Marching Uniforms**

#### 1. Pants

- Clean
- Pressed
- Hemmed (one and one-half inches from ground)

#### 2. Coat / Cape

- Zipped and buttoned
- Clean and neat

#### 3. Shoes / Guard Shoes

- Polished
- Completely cleaned (scuffs hidden and covered)

#### 4. Socks

- Black (no substitutions)

### **C. Hats and Gloves**

- Hats straight
- Neck straps secured tightly under the neck
- Gloves - White (or as specified for guard)
  - a. Fingers Sewn as Appropriate
  - b. Clean

### **D. Concert Uniforms (Refer to Special Uniform Information Handout)**

#### 1. Pants and Skirts

- Cleaned and pressed
- Hemmed neatly and the appropriate length (pants 1 ½ inches from the floor&

skirt should touch the floor when standing and the top of shoes when sitting)

## 2. Jackets and Vests

- Clean and pressed
- Pins and Medals are not allowed

## 3. Shoes and Socks/Hosiery

- Gentlemen will wear their clean and polished black band shoes
- Ladies will wear flat black (heel  $\frac{1}{2}$  " to  $\frac{3}{4}$  ") dress shoes - **NO** open toed shoes
- Only black hosiery allowed; black socks for the gentlemen (no see through and must cover to mid-calf)

## E. Rain Gear

### 1. Shoes and Socks

- White tennis shoes for all band members: 100% white with the exception of a small brand logo no larger than a penny
- White low-cut ankle socks only

### 2. Shorts

- Official band shorts for each unit of the marching band; No substitutions
- Shorts may be worn with an optional **black** belt

### 3. Shirts

- Shirts are the required band shirts for each unit of the marching band; No substitutions will be allowed
- Shirts must be clean, pressed and tucked in to the band shorts. If your official band shirt is losing the red color and has become faded, you will need to purchase a replacement shirt

## F. Miscellaneous

- No hats or sunglasses are allowed when wearing the rain gear uniform (prescription sunglasses are allowed with permission from the band director(s))
- No visible jewelry of any kind (except watches).
- Other required items (water bottles) clean and ready for use.

## G. Music Folders

- Must contain all music (including hand-written and library issued music)
- Must have properly issued folder with your name and instrument marked visibly

## H. General Appearance in Performances (concert, marching, pep-band, etc.)

It is of high importance for the band to present a dignified professional image during public events. Our school and boosters have gone to great expense and effort to provide the band with professional style uniforms and it is only appropriate that the personal grooming and appearance of individual members appropriately match and blend into the quality and professional image of our performance uniforms and dress. It is for this reason that we have adopted the following polices.

1. **NO visible tattoos** – please cover appropriately so as **NOT** to call attention to them;

2. While it is strongly recommended that there be **NO visible jewelry worn**, in the event where a student has piercings that may not be reasonably removable, very small studs that **DO NOT** call attention to the individual (either by **size** or **color**) will be allowed;
3. **NO** visible bracelets and rings that either **call attention** to the individual or **might interfere** with the playing of the instrument will be allowed;
4. Hair well groomed
  - Red hair elastics – Clips must match hair color
  - Red ribbons (thin ¼ “)
  - Must fit neatly into hat or be tied back out of the face and may hang down past the uniform collar
  - Hair color or style must not call attention to the individual
3. Make-up
  - Minimal
  - No heavy foundation, eye make-up, or glitter
  - No fingernail polish (clear is ok)
  - No dirty fingernails
  - No Glitter

#### I. Guard Items

- Uniform
- Shoes
- Flags
- Make-up & kit
- Towel
- Utility Bag
- Special make up for performances as per instructions
- Other as specified

### UNIFORMS

Band members will be assigned uniforms before school starts. Each student who uses a school-owned uniform is responsible for any loss or damage to his/her uniform. Each student will be assessed a cleaning/maintenance fee in order to insure the continued life and up-keep of his/her uniform. Any items not stored at school are the responsibility of the student who must keep them cleaned, in good repair, and ready for performance.

Accessories to the uniform, such as shoes, gloves, socks, etc., are the financial responsibility of the student.

Lost or damaged items due to student neglect shall be replaced at the student's expense.

Any student who fails to properly care for or properly put away any uniform item may be issued BSA's as appropriate.

### STADIUM PROCEDURES

The band will march into each game in an orderly and dignified manner. Students will sit only in their assigned seats and will keep their lines and columns straight at all times. There will be no individual playing. While in the stands, students may not eat or drink (other than that provided by the band) at any time. Students may go to the bathroom with the director's permission and only if accompanied by a

chaperone. There will be no smoking or gum allowed at any band function while in uniform. Students should exercise control when a touchdown is made because we will need to play immediately. Students are to give their attention to the conductor at all times. Everyone will remain in the bleachers formation until dismissed. In the stadium, the band is expected to show lots of spirit, but also conduct itself in a dignified manner.

### COURTESY

Courtesy to teachers, school employees, parents, chaperones, other students, and guests is a band tradition. Each of us should strive to be considerate of all others.

### BUS-CONDUCT

- Students must keep their heads, hands, and other articles inside the bus at all times.
- Excessive or distracting noise is prohibited.
- Horseplay is not permitted around or on the bus.
- Students should not leave any articles on the bus, including instruments, uniforms, personal items, etc. Items left are not the responsibility of the school.
- Students must remain seated while the bus is moving. Students may only exit through the front door except in case of emergency.
- Students must be absolutely quiet at all railroad crossings.
- Only radios or CD players with headphones are allowed.
- No eating or drinking without the expressed permission of the driver.
- All buses are to be cleaned and trash removed at the end of each trip. This is to be enforced by the assigned bus captains.
- There will be no changing of clothes on the bus unless designated by the band directors.
- Cell phones in general are not to be used on busses without prior permission.

\*Bus captains, officers, and chaperones are responsible for the enforcement of these rules and may refer infractions to the band discipline chart for issuance.

### INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT RESPONSIBILITY

Each student who uses school-owned instruments / equipment is completely responsible for the care of that instrument or piece of equipment. Lost or damaged items shall be replaced at the student's expense. Before school-owned instruments are checked out, a checkout form must be filled out and filed with the director(s), exception percussion / flags see below. Students must return any school owned item at director(s) request.

### PERCUSSION EQUIPMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Because of the special nature of the percussion program and the large amount of basic equipment, instruments, and the many small accessory items necessary to operate the percussion program, it is necessary for members of the percussion section be collectively responsible for all equipment, instruments, and accessories used at the various times of the year by all students at one time or another. It is understood that it is not possible to assign direct responsibility to any one student or any one specific item at a given time due to the "shared" nature of the equipment and the numerous students that may use the items during the course of a single day. It is understood that all students will share collectively in the responsibility for the cost of replacement for any lost or misplaced equipment and accessories. Therefore, it is in the collective best interest for all students in the percussion program to be accountable for any items used at any time and any place by any percussionist and for responsibly accounting for all items at the end of each class, rehearsal, performance, trip, or season.

### **FLAG CORPS EQUIPMENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Because of the special nature of the flag corps program and the large amount of basic equipment and the many small accessory equipment / items necessary to operate the flag corps program, it is necessary for members of the flag corps to be collectively responsible for all equipment and accessories used at the various times of the year by all students at one time or another. It is understood that it is not possible to assign direct responsibility to any one student or any one specific item at a given time due to the “shared” nature of the equipment and the numerous students that may use the items during the course of a single day or season. It is understood that all students will share collectively in the responsibility for the cost of replacement for any lost or misplaced equipment and accessories. Therefore, it is in the collective best interest for all students in the flag corps program to be accountable for any items used at any time and any place by any flag corps member and for responsibly accounting for all items at the end of each class, rehearsal, performance, trip, or season.

### **SWITCHING INSTRUMENTS**

From time to time it is necessary to maintain a balanced instrumentation in the band that students are asked to learn to play a completely different instrument or play a different instrument within their instrumental family (example clarinet to bass clarinet). It is also customary for double reed players to have this option for the football band and may elect to play a wind instrument or play in the percussion section. On rare occasions there may be a shortage in the marching band percussion section where wind players are encouraged to participate in the fall drum-line or front ensemble. Other situations that may benefit the band and accommodate students is learning to play one of the jazz band instruments or a second instrument where the student may wish to be a member of either of the two symphonic bands. Other than the situations and circumstances mentioned above, students should not expect to switch instruments. In any case, students may not switch instruments without the specific prior approval of the band directors and may not take a spot or instrument away from a student who is qualified on that instrument in their normal section.

### **PRIVATE LESSONS**

Private lessons are encouraged for all students in order for the students to achieve their maximum potential. Information on private teachers is available in the band office.

### **QUALITY MOUTHPIECES**

Each student is required to have a quality mouthpiece for his/her instrument that is approved by the band director(s). This is due to the need for a like sound from each student. A list of acceptable mouthpieces can be provided by the band director(s). No student may use an unapproved mouthpiece in rehearsal or performance without permission of the director(s).

### **SUMMER KICK OFF CLINIC – SUMMER BAND - BAND CAMP ACTIVITIES**

Band is a year-round activity. All prospective students are required to participate in the Summer Kick-Off Clinic, section rehearsals and full band rehearsals, and the annual Band Camp activities as per the band calendar. This includes percussion, flags, and winds for pre and post camp clinics. Excused absences are rare for these events.

Students absent from any of the special camps and clinics may be excused by the director(s) only in cases of necessity and only when arrangements are made in advance. Students are responsible for any skills, techniques, or routines taught during their absences.

Failure to keep up with the group may result in the student not being assigned a spot in the football show and or having to perform from the sideline at halftime.

Students not attending Kick-Off and or Band Camp activities will be considered alternates and will not be assigned positions in the field show. Such students will be worked into the show at the earliest possible time pending an open position. If a position is not available they will either shadow (understudy) a spot and must attend all rehearsal and performance activities of the band.

Students who are alternates, shadowing, or otherwise not in the show, will perform from the sideline at halftime.

**Those students who are UNEXCUSED from these camps will be DISMISSED.**

### GENERAL TRAVEL

- All students are required to travel to and from all events with the band. Exceptions to this policy are listed below.
- Cars may not be driven to any band activity unless school transportation is not provided or the activity does not originate from the VBHS campus. If the activity originates from the VBHS campus or the student is required to return to class after the activity, **official school forms are required to be on file in advance.**
- Students may be picked up at the conclusion of an off campus / away activity by the parent, legal guardian, other responsible adult so designated only when the parent or legal guardian files the appropriate **official school form** in advance of the activity.
- The parent, legal guardian, or responsible adult must personally appear to the director(s) or head chaperone prior to the student's release at the conclusion of the event.
- No student may be released to, nor may ride home with a boyfriend, girlfriend, other student, nor any non-adult. Any exceptions to this require advance approval from a VBHS administrator. **Official school forms are required to be on file.**
- No student will be released until the group is formally dismissed except with special prior arrangements being made with the band director(s)

### REWARDS TRIPS / SPECIAL TRIPS

The band may take special rewards type trips from time to time. Only those students who have "earned" the privilege of going on these trips will be allowed to participate. In order to be eligible to attend, the following criteria must be met:

- The student must have been an active member of the band for the entire school year.
- The student must have done his/her fair share of fund-raising for the school year and have met their financial obligation for the cost of the trip. A reward trip may be restricted to those students "earning" the privilege of participating.
- The student must have a good record of attendance, behavior, and dependability in all classes and must meet all school rules and policies for attending such events.

- Any student who is academically ineligible will be prohibited from participating in any special band trip.
- As a general rule, injured students, non-performing students, or any student who may present a medical liability or potential disruption may not attend or travel with the band. Each situation will be handled on a case-by-case basis by school officials.
- Students who drop band prior to a trip will not be eligible under any circumstances to attend any trips. In general, advanced payments and deposits on trips are not refundable.

### **TRIPS TO FESTIVALS, COMPETITIONS, COVENTIONS, MUSIC CONFERENCES, TELEVISED PERFORMANCES**

When the band or select ensembles within the band are invited to perform in these type events, participation is required. Students may not opt out of participation in these events. The cost of such trips will be the responsibility of the student through fundraising efforts and personal payments. When possible the school, community, and band boosters may contribute to or fully fund these activities.

### **USE OF BAND FACILITIES**

The use of band facilities before, after, or during school is a privilege. Students who abuse the facilities and its contents will be disciplined accordingly. Any abuse or damage will be considered vandalism and will be replaced or repaired at the expense of the student.

The following general rules are in effect:

- No outside students are permitted inside the facility except for business with the director(s)
- No playing around or horseplay
- Do not bring any kind of food, drink, or gum into the facility
- No playing of instruments outside the band room
- All equipment, including instruments, color guard items, percussion items, etc., are off limits without the expressed permission of the director(s)
- No littering or rearranging furniture

### **REHEARSAL HALL**

The controlled gathering of students before school or at other appropriate times is permitted as long as students are quiet and well behaved. The rehearsal hall and other rooms are NOT lounge areas. Students must keep the room neat and orderly at all times. Chairs and stands will be stacked neatly in a designated place at ALL TIMES. If you use something, PUT IT BACK. Be careful around the white walls and sound panels. These panels cannot be cleaned and are expensive. Take care of your facilities.

### **INSTRUMENT / STORAGE ROOMS**

These areas are off-limits to all students except those getting or putting away instruments. There will be no hanging out in the instrument rooms.

### **FLAG ROOM**

The flag room is to be used by the members of the flag corps only. This room is to be kept neat and organized at all times without exception.

### **LIBRARY**

The library is private and is to be used only by the library staff. Materials may be checked out only through the librarians or directors. This room is to be kept neat and organized at all times.

### **SOUND ROOM**

This room is off limits to everyone without specific permission from the director(s).

### **BAND OFFICES**

Students, Parents, and Visitors with official passes are welcome. We encourage students to feel free to drop in and say hello or to come in for any business as needed. If the doors are closed, please look for the knock first or do not disturb signs and, are asked obey them. Offices are not to be entered by anyone unless the director(s) is present.

### **UNIFORM ROOMS**

The uniform rooms are restricted areas and are to be used only by the uniform staff. This area is to be kept clean and neat at all times.

### **INSTRUMENT REPAIR ROOM**

The instrument repair room can be utilized with the permission of the director(s). The equipment officer is responsible for the care and maintenance of this room.

### **PRACTICE ROOMS**

The practice rooms may be used by students for individual or small ensemble practicing. Students should ONLY be in practice rooms when actually practicing.

### **LOCKERS**

Personal lockers and locks will be issued at the beginning of the school year. These lockers must be kept neat. Personal items may be stored as long as the locker is kept organized. Decorations inside the locker are permitted as long as they can be COMPLETELY removed. NO stickers of any kind will be allowed. Lockers should be locked at all times, unless the student is in class or rehearsal. These lockers are designed specifically for instrument storage and will not withstand excess weight. Please do not sit in the lockers as the parts will be extremely difficult and expensive to replace. Damage to lockers will be paid for by the student.

### **UPSTAIRS AREA (ROOMS & HALL) / ORCHESTRA ROOM**

These areas, including the stairwells, are off limits at all times unless the student has specific permission to be in these areas for musical purposes or band business purposes.

## **REHEARSAL and PERFORMANCE PROCEDURES**

Rehearsal time is valuable and every moment must be used efficiently. All successful groups observe the following rules:

- Upon entering the band facility, acquire your instrument, music, and equipment and go directly to your seat or area to begin warming up. All personal belongings should be kept in lockers or in the instrument storage room in which the locker is assigned. Cases will be stored in the lockers during rehearsal, with the exception of certain woodwind instruments that require excessive assembly. No cases, book bags, and other personal items are to be in the rehearsal hall or on the floor.
- When the director, staff member or appointed student leader steps in front of the band, all talking and noise will cease and the students will quietly await further instruction.
- Rules for after-school-hours rehearsals will follow the same procedure as class.
- While on the field, the drum majors are in charge of the band. There will be no excessive talking or other behavior not constructive to a productive rehearsal setting.
- No student is permitted to drive a vehicle to the practice field without specific permission to do so from the director(s)

### **MARCHING SEASON REHEARSAL DRESS**

During marching season it is vitally important to maintain a certain degree of uniformity in each rehearsal. Uniformity in dress across the band enables the band directors and staff to assess the field more efficiently and will lead to a great level of execution. Therefore:

- **Tuesday** night rehearsal dress throughout the marching season will be as follows: winds and percussion will wear black or dark navy colored shorts (finger tip length or longer) with the Band Camp T-shirt and white sneakers. Guard members will follow the same guidelines wearing black or dark navy shorts with the Band Camp T-shirt and white sneakers. No headgear is allowed.
- **Thursday** night rehearsal dress throughout the marching season will be as follows: winds and percussion will wear black or dark navy colored shorts (finger tip length or longer) with the “Red Indian” T-shirt and white sneakers. Guard members will follow the same guidelines wearing black or dark navy shorts with the “Grey” Flag Corps T-shirt and white sneakers. No headgear is allowed.

### **PERFORMANCE DRESS (MARCHING SEASON / OUTDOOR EVENTS / PEP EVENTS)**

**Class A Uniform** (Full Marching Uniform Band & Flag Corps Full Uniform)

Jacket/Cape, Pants, Hat, Black band shoes, Long black socks, Gloves, Red Hair Tie (for long hair) for winds and percussion. Flags will wear their complete formal uniform.

*What to Wear Underneath Your Class A Uniform (winds and percussion):*

Grey man shirt, Official black shorts with Black belt.

**CLASS A UNIFORMS ARE WORN EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED**

*When you arrive to band (winds & percussion), you should be wearing:*

Grey Man Shirt, official black shorts w/ black belt, long black socks, black band shoes

### **Class B Uniform (Winds-Percussion-Flags)**

Grey man or grey flag shirt, Official black shorts with Black belt, White shoes, White socks.  
(Flags do not wear a belt.)

*(Have your Class B Uniform ready with you every Game Night. We will change into this uniform in the event of rain.)*

### **Class C Uniform (Winds-Percussion-Flags)**

Red band / flag polo shirt, Official black shorts with Black belt, White shoes, White socks.  
(Flags do not wear a belt)

*(Class C Uniform is worn in the Summer and at Pep Rallies and as specified)*

## **BAND OFFICERS AND LEADERSHIP TEAM**

All students who are elected or appointed to leadership positions must meet and maintain the following general requirements. Only students who have displayed outstanding qualities of leadership will be accepted for this honor.

- Must be a sophomore, junior, or senior member of both the marching and concert bands – except for the position of auxiliary captain.
- Must have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5.
- Must maintain at least a 2.5 GPA academically and at least an “A” average in band each semester.
- Must have and maintain a good positive attitude towards band and be willing to put in the extra time required for the performance of duties.
- Must be willing to put their band responsibilities above other outside activities and jobs.
- Must set and maintain an excellent example for other students to follow as far as attitude, conduct, attendance, musicianship, cooperation, and promptness are concerned.
- Must attend all summer activities as required by the director(s) and agree in advance to be in band the entire school year.
- Being a band officer is one of the most respected positions in the school. Students should strive to bring dignity and honor to each of their respective positions and to the band. Superior conduct and values are expected and required of all band officers throughout all aspects of student and community life. Casting discredit upon one’s leadership position or the band places in jeopardy your leadership position.

### **OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES**

- All school rules will be enforced at all times in the band room, at extra rehearsals and at all performances. School Dress Code is expected at all times.
- Upon entering the rehearsal hall, each student should quickly acquire his/her instrument, music, and other materials needed for rehearsal. Each student is expected to then go directly to his/her assigned seat and begin warming-up properly.
- All students must be in the band room when the tardy bell sounds. Students should use the restroom and attend to any other business prior to reporting to class. No student will be admitted after the tardy bell rings without an admission slip from the office or from another teacher.
- All students are expected to be in their assigned seats with all necessary materials no later than 2 minutes after the tardy bell sounds. In any case, students must be in their seats with all necessary items when the conductor begins warm-up. Violators will be considered tardy.
- Prior to the start of rehearsal, students should warm-up their instruments by playing long tones and exercises to tune the instrument. Only appropriate warm-up exercises or passages from the music being rehearsed should be played before rehearsal.
- Gum, candy, food and other such items are not allowed at any rehearsal or performance due to hazards of health and damage to the instruments or facilities.
- There will be no excess talking or distractions allowed among students at rehearsals or during performance situations.
- Students who come to class without necessary materials or who choose not to participate will lose points off their grade.
- At the end of the activity, each student is to put away his/her own instrument, music, and other equipment. NO items may be left out of place.

### **CELL PHONE POLICY**

All school policies regarding cell phones apply to all band situations. Students may use cell phones in band situations outside the normal school day as follows

- During breaks
- Free time
- Other as approved by the Director(s) or Chaperone(s)

Cell Phones may not be used as follows and must be turned off and out of sight

- During any rehearsal, class, or class room extension situation
- On busses except as approved by the Director(s) or Chaperone(s)
- After lights out curfew on overnight trips (emergency OK)
- Any organized group activity of the band

Students may not have use of nor have possession of cell phones as follows:

- Any performance situation
- Any formal or special concert, lecture, tour, or special meeting situation

Cell phone use and possession will be restricted for the group or for individuals when used irresponsibly or when the use of or possession of cell phones distracts from legitimate band activities or compromises the safety of the group or individuals.

**Upon notice from the band director(s) students may be required to deposit their cell phones in a cell phone collection box or bucket until the end of an activity.**

It is **strongly recommended** that cell phones **NOT** be carried along on band trips, and it should be clearly understood that violations of cell policies and the resulting consequences will be fully enforced according to the established policies of the school.

### **AWARDS POLICIES**

A. Awards are earned on the basis of participation and outstanding performance. Awards are presented at the discretion of the band director(s). The Awards Program is funded jointly by the VBHS Band and through the efforts of the "Fighting Indians Band Boosters, Inc."

In order to be eligible to receive an award, the following criteria must be met:

- A student must have been actively participating in the marching, concert, or winter guard activities of the band for the entire school year and must be a current member of the band in good standing at the time of the award presentation. Exceptions to this (extenuating circumstances) are at the discretion of the band directors,
- Any student who drops band or is dismissed from band for any reason will NOT be eligible for any band award.

### **SERVICE AWARDS**

- First Year Award- will be presented to each first year student who has been in band for a minimum of two semesters.
- Band Letter Award- will be presented to each second year student who has been in band for a minimum of four semesters.
- Third Year Award- will be presented to each third year student who has been in band for a minimum of six semesters.
- Fourth Year (Senior Award) - will be presented to each fourth year student who has been in band for a minimum of eight semesters.
- "Miss Rage", "Most Improved", "Leadership Award"- will be presented to the outstanding members of the auxiliary unit who best represent these designations.
- The Louis Armstrong Jazz Award- will be presented to the outstanding member of the Jazz Band.
- The Woody Herman Award – will be presented to an outstanding member of the Jazz Band
- The John Philip Sousa Award- will be presented to the outstanding graduating senior and is the highest high school band award in the nation.
- FBA Award – will be presented to the outstanding senior who best represents the ideals of the Florida Bandmasters Association through their bands-men-ship.
- Additional Awards- may be presented at the discretion of the band director(s) to meet the needs of deserving students.

### ACTIVITY AWARDS

- Bronze Activity Award- will be presented to each wind or percussion student who has earned a minimum of twenty activity points during the course of one year (fifteen points for ninth graders).
- Silver Activity Award- will be presented to each wind or percussion student who has earned a minimum of twenty five activity points during the course of the year (nineteen points for ninth graders).
- Gold Activity Award- will be presented to each wind or percussion student who has earned a minimum of thirty points during the course of the year (twenty three) points for ninth graders).
- Emerald Activity Award- will be presented to any wind and percussion student who has earned a total of 90 activity points through their senior year.
- Diamond Activity Award- will be presented to any wind or percussion student who has earned a total of one hundred or more activity points through their senior year.
- "The Rage" Activity Award- will be presented to any auxiliary unit member who has earned minimum of eight activity points throughout the course of one year
- "The Rage" Achievement Award- will be presented to any auxiliary unit member who has earned minimum of twelve activity points throughout the course of one year
- "The Rage" Award of Excellence- will be presented to any auxiliary unit member who has earned a minimum of twenty four or more activity points through their senior year.

\*Activity Point List (Winds and Percussion)

Numbers in ( ) parenthesis indicate point total for receiving a superior rating in the activity.

<b>Points</b>	<b>Activity</b>
2	Band member both semesters
2	Executive Leaders & Department Managers
1	Official "Crew Members"
1 (3)	Participation Dist. Marching Festival
3 (4)	Each entry at Dist. Solo/Ensemble Festival
1 (3)	Participation Dist. Concert Festival
2 (4)	Each entry at State Solo/Ensemble Festival
2 (4)	Participation State Concert Festival
1	Try-Out for All-State Band
3	All-State Band Participant
2	Switch over to another instrument at director's request
3	Straight A's in band
3	Perfect attendance at all rehearsals and performances (no absences of any kind)
2	Participation in Symphony Orchestra
2	Pit Orchestra for Musical
1	Participation in Jazz Band
1	Four County Honors Band
1	Other Honor Band(s)
1 (2)	Play off 12 Major Scales (Bonus for Memory)
2	Private lessons
2	Achieving "Fair Share" on FIBB Fundraisers
1 (each)	Special Projects (A, B, C)

A. Five 100 word summaries of articles from the Instrumentalist or School Musician Magazine (typed). Include a photo copy of article.

B. 500 word essay on the history and development of your instrument (typed with bibliography).

C. Band service project as approved by director(s)

**\*\*Activity Point List (Auxiliary Units)**

<b>Points</b>	<b>Activity</b>
2	Guard member both semesters
2	Guard Leadership
2 (3)	Participation at Dist. Marching Festival
2 (3)	Participation at Indoor Guard Festival / Competitions 3rd Place or higher / Participating in Spring Guard Activities if no District Festival
3	Perfect Attendance at all rehearsals and performances (no absences of any kind)
2	Achieving "Fair Share" on FIBB Fundraisers
1 (each)	Special Projects

A. Choreograph and successfully perform a routine with music (minimum two minutes, solo)

B. Same as "above", but with a group of four members in an ensemble

C. A 500 word essay on any topic related to dance (typed with bibliography).

D. Band Service project approved by the directors

### **BAND MEMBER'S RESPONSIBILITY**

Each member of the band, upon accepting membership, has certain responsibilities to the band, school, community, and fellow members. Each member should be in regular attendance, account for any absences, and make a real effort to improve daily. Every member should have proper respect for those in authority. Everyone should be sincere in his/her commitment to the band and fellow members. All members should be honest and fair concerning all matters. Everyone is expected to cooperate with the director(s) and fellow band members and share the responsibility and privileges of band membership. Once in the band, all members should put their hearts into it and give it all the effort possible. All members should be loyal to the band.

### **PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITY**

It is the responsibility of every parent and guardian to see that the policies outlined in this handbook are followed. Each parent is responsible for the attendance of his/her child at all band functions. Sometimes students receive low grades or are reprimanded when it is really the parent who is at fault. It is the responsibility of each parent to see that his/her child practices his/her instrument or routines daily. It is the responsibility of each parent to support his/her child's band activities and present a "united front" with the director(s) in positive support for the band program, thus ensuring a rewarding and positive experience for all band students.

### SPECIAL NOTICE TO PARENTS/STUDENTS REGARDING MARCHING BAND

Marching band is a physical activity that requires and involves the following potentially stressful activities:

- Marching for long periods of time in rehearsals and performances.
- Marching for long periods of time in parades and rehearsals for parades.
- Marching maneuvers that may put stress on the legs, knees, and feet. These may include quickstep marching, kneeling, abrupt facing maneuvers, etc.
- Other activities may include running or jogging around the rehearsal field or track and other normally accepted physical education exercises or activities.

Under normal circumstances, normal, healthy students rarely, if ever, experience any problems due to marching activities.

Any parent who foresees a potential problem or possible injury, accident, or other health related situation should consult a physician for advice.

Students with prior history of knee injuries, leg injuries, other bodily injuries, or health problems are required to submit a statement from a physician stating that the student is physically able to participate in the marching portion of the program.

In the event that a student, through a doctor's order, is unable to participate fully in marching activities or possibly the concert activities of band, a specifically developed alternative plan providing for participation in the program will be developed to the furthest extent possible. **No student with physical or health problems will be excluded from membership in the Vero Beach High School Band.**

### FIGHTING INDIANS BAND BOOSTERS, INC.

The parents and interested members of the community, with the agreement and support of the school district, have organized the Fighting Indians Band Boosters, Inc. This group enjoys a unique relationship with Vero Beach High School as an affiliate extension support group for the band program. The success of the boosters is due, in large part, to the unique partnership between the school and boosters, and to the active participation of students, parents, and community. By definition, the role of our booster organization is to "boost" the band program in a positive manner through the presentation of a "united front" in support of the students, other parent volunteers, and the band director(s).

Some of the specific objectives of the boosters include:

- To stimulate and maintain an enthusiastic interest and support for all phases of the band program;
- To cooperate with those in charge of the band and the school to the end that the band be brought to and kept at the highest degree of excellence;
- To develop a close working relationship between parents, students, and director(s);
- To promote the knowledge, performance, and appreciation of quality music;
- To assist in fundraising to finance certain extras and enrichments not provided for in the school budget;
- To augment and encourage educational trips as sanctioned by the school
- To provide volunteer support as needed for the various activities and functions of the band.

The Fighting Indians Band Boosters, Inc. is a support/advisory group and does not make or interfere with school policy and is subject to oversight by the school district through the Principal (Mr. Eric Seymour), his designee(s), and the band director(s)

Membership is open to all interested parents and members of the community upon the payment of dues and or the receipt of a membership card. Meetings are held periodically at the call of the booster President.

### **FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES**

All fund-raising activities (exception VBHS performing arts activities or events) are sponsored by the “Fighting Indians Band Boosters, Inc.” and must follow the rules and procedures regarding fundraising activities of Vero Beach High School. The Band Boosters are responsible for the organization and implementation of these types of activities.

### **CONCLUSION**

It is the hope of the school, director(s), students, and parents that we maintain as fine an organization as possible. This can be accomplished only by everyone taking a sincere interest in the band. Only through hard work and cooperation can we develop a band in which we can all be proud. There are no magic formulas or guarantees, but by following this handbook thoroughly, living up to the standards and procedures described herein, and using good judgment, you will have done a great deal towards promoting and developing a fine band program. This is YOUR BAND and it will be SUPERIOR only through YOUR efforts.

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