



STUDENT/PARENT
BAND HANDBOOK
2018-2019

Please read and review BEFORE signing and returning the Veterans Memorial High School Band acknowledgement page found at the end of the handbook.

Veterans Memorial High School Band
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FORWARD

CONGRATULATIONS on your decision to be part of the fine tradition of the **VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL “SCREAMING EAGLE” BAND!** This booklet 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 Veterans Memorial High School Band office at 361-878-7929.

BAND ORGANIZATIONS

Band is a full year course consisting of two distinct semesters or “seasons”. The fall semester is primarily considered the marching season while the spring semester is considered the concert season. The following is a brief description of the various groups that are associated with the Veterans Memorial High School band program:

MARCHING BAND

The marching band performs at all VMHS pep rallies, at all VMHS varsity football games, and at marching contests and exhibitions. **Membership in the Marching Band is required of all band students.** The Marching Band meets at 8:00 a.m. on Monday’s, 6:30 a.m. on Tuesday’s-Thursday’s, and Friday’s at 7 a.m. at the practice field or band hall. The rehearsal times are subject to change as we progress through the season. Marching Band students are eligible to receive a physical education waiver for membership and enrollment in the Marching Band class.

CONCERT BAND

There are multiple concert bands at Veterans Memorial High School. Students are placed in a concert band according to their playing ability, attitude, participation, and instrumentation needs. Students may move from band to band as deemed necessary or appropriate. The concert bands provide for a wide range of playing abilities and time commitment. With team teaching, students will have the opportunity to experience full band, sectionals, and individual attention. Veterans Memorial High School band students will meet 1st or 2nd period. Other band periods may be added as the band continues to grow.

OTHER POSSIBLE PERFORMING GROUPS

Students will also be given the opportunity to participate in jazz ensemble, mariachi ensemble, and color guard. Students must have teacher approval to participate in these groups. **At this time there will be no classes offered for mariachi or color guard.** All rehearsals will take place before or after school.

APPLIED PRIVATE INSTRUCTION

There are many qualified private lesson instructors in the area. Private Instruction is offered as enrichment, NOT remedial instruction. It is highly encouraged for the complete development of each student's potential as

a performing musician. IT IS NOT REQUIRED and students' places in band and their band grades are not judged by participation in private instruction. This is separate from the lessons that the band directors assign for after school sessions.

PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

A yearly band calendar is enclosed for your use in planning your family schedule for the 2018-2019 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, please call the band office at 361-878-7929 or send a message on REMIND. Occasionally, there may be family commitments (weddings, graduations, etc.); in which case, we will **try** to be flexible and work with you on an individual basis. This must be discussed in detail well in advance (**a month or more!**).

Student job commitments and “select sports” are **NOT** reasons for an excused absence from band performances or rehearsals! Many band students work and participate in “select sports” and participate successfully in band. We suggest that these students take a copy of the “Yearly Band Calendar” to his/her employer and/or coach and clear all band performances and rehearsals. Most employers are very understanding and are flexible **if** they know of band commitments well in advance, and they understand that band performances are a **required** and vital part of the course work.

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

In band rehearsals, we not only deal with a creative process, but with a great deal more students at one time than do 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 a 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 music, and that (s)he has important accessories such as drill cards, 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 Veterans Memorial HS Screaming Eagle Band will be counseled, and, if necessary, removed from the band program completely.

INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS

The ultimate goal of our program is the development of the individual musician to the limits of his/her potential. To assist in reaching this goal, we strongly recommend participation in the individual competitions and festivals offered throughout the year.

All-Region Band tryouts involve the finest students from schools in our region and is the first step in advancement toward All-State. All students in grades 9-12 may participate if academically eligible. The

music is announced in July and the district tryouts are in November. Students advancing to region will audition in December. Students must check their calendars carefully and make a complete commitment to both the tryouts and the performance before entering.

UIL Solo & Ensemble competition takes place in February and results in non-competitive ratings and medals. All students in grades 9-12 may participate if academically eligible. Students must perform a solo and/or an ensemble to receive lettering credit. The UIL limits participation to two different events. Students must enter all events in which they qualified if they wish to go to the State contest.

CHAIR PLACEMENT/CHALLENGES

Chair placement in a Concert Band is on the basis of playing auditions. Chair placement auditions may be held throughout the school year. Students are placed in chair order **only** on the basis of “how they perform” the audition music. **The classification of a student is not a factor.**

GRADING

Grading in band is based upon participation and playing evaluations. Grades for band students are usually higher than the norm, which is understandable, since we have the “cream-of-the-crop” of the student body in the band program. Students belong to our program because they “want to,” not because they “have to”!

In determining the band grade each six weeks, two areas comprise the average:

- 1) **Major Grades** (60%)- chair tests, and playoffs of performance music.
- 2) **Minor Grades** (40%)- including having music, instrument, and pencil at all rehearsals, correct marking of music, care and maintenance of instruments, punctuality to rehearsals and performances, and attendance at rehearsals and curricular performances.

Instruments are to be taken home every day. If instruments are left in the band hall overnight without permission, the student's grade will be adversely affected.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Any student whose recorded six weeks grade average **in any course** is lower than 70 at the end of a six-week period shall be suspended from participation during the next six-week period. However, a student may regain eligibility seven calendar days after the three-week evaluation period if the student is passing **all courses** on the last day of the three-school-week period. A one-week grace period follows each grading and progress period.

The Veterans Memorial Band Staff will enforce all eligibility rules and regulations. Students who are ineligible will continue to rehearse during his/her band class, before and 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 halftime or any type of 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 band staff and Veterans Memorial High School staff work 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.

DISCIPLINE

Discipline is a quality that must come from within the individual. Because of this fact, each student is responsible for his or her own actions as a member of the VMHS Band. Any student who shows an inability to work effectively in class may be re-assigned to another class at the discretion of the band director.

As a school group, the band is governed by School and School Board policies anytime we are together for any band function whether it involves all students or only one. The general release form you sign at the end of this handbook will be in effect throughout the year for trips related to the band. Any student who violates school rules while with the VMHS Band will be subject to all usual school disciplinary procedures. In addition, those students will be subject to dismissal and will not continue to perform or travel with the band. Also, students who receive assignment to the alternative education center for disciplinary action outside of band activities will not perform with the band in any extracurricular function for the remainder of the semester.

SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS

VMHS provides school musical instruments in the double reed and low woodwind section and selected low brass and percussion sections. These instruments are quite costly (example: concert Tuba - \$6,000) and are not normally owned by individuals. **Any damage or normal adjustment during the year is the responsibility of the band student who has signed for the instrument. REPAIRS CAN ONLY BE DONE AT SOUTH TEXAS MUSIC MART. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO REPAIR AN INSTRUMENT YOURSELF.** We expect the instrument to be returned in the same condition as when issued. Dings, dents, and other damage will be repaired at the student's expense.

A checkout form will be sent home for parent/guardian signature each August which describes the condition of the instrument at that time. It is the responsibility of the student/parent to check over the instrument at that time and understand that the instrument must be returned in the same condition at the end of the year.

BAND UNIFORMS

MARCHING

It is a **privilege** to wear the VMHS Band uniform. Make sure you have all parts of the uniform at each performance. **KEEP YOUR UNIFORM CLEAN!** If your uniform does not meet the high standard required in the VMHS Eagle Band, you are subject to being removed from a performance or not traveling with the band. This uniform is a symbol of pride and will be worn accordingly. **You must wear all of the**

uniform (minus the hat) or none of the uniform! Most students choose to wear lightweight shorts (should not come above the fingertips when arms are hanging down to the side), with the designated show or spirit t-shirt under their uniform, giving them the option to remove it at appropriate times. If a band member is seen wearing the uniform incorrectly **at any time**, the uniform will be asked of that student! Band uniforms are **not** to be worn at eating establishments, after games or performances, or to social functions. Eating and drinking soft drinks should be done before you put on or after you remove your uniform. Here are some dos and don'ts that will help you and your uniform look great at all times:

- **DO:** remember your designated show or spirit t-shirt, shorts (of appropriate length), black socks, and marching shoes each time you will be wearing your uniform.
- **DO NOT:** remove any material from the uniform if alterations are necessary.
- **DO:** remove ALL makeup and jewelry.
- **DO:** transport your uniform in a garment bag and your hat in the hat box. Every time!
- **DO:** take extra time and care when hanging up your uniform. Pants hang folded on the crease, not the seat.
- **DO:** Always store your hat in its hat box.
- **DO NOT:** attempt to wash and/or dry your uniform at home.
- **DO:** remember to bring your instrument in spite of your excitement over your uniform!

CONCERT

During concert season, all students are required to have a "Concert Black" attire. **Gentlemen:** Long-sleeve, button down **solid black dress shirt**. Black dress pants/slacks with a black belt; no jeans. Black dress shoes with long black dress socks. **Ladies:** Long sleeve or $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeve **solid black dress blouse**. Black dress pants/slacks; no jeans or yoga pants. **Close-toed black shoes**, flats work great; heels no taller than 2 inches.

Wind Ensemble students will dress in school-provided formal attire for UIL Contest. **Gentlemen** will be issued a tuxedo and must supply their own black dress shoes and all black dress socks. **Ladies** will be issued black formal dresses. Each girl will need to furnish **close-toed black shoes**, flats work great; heels no taller than 2 inches, with the length of the dress adjusted to formal length with the shoes on.

Symphonic Band students will wear the "Concert Black" attire for UIL Contest.

UNIFORM ACCESSORIES □

The VMHS Eagle Band uniform and all the major accessories are provided by CCISD. Band students will need to provide:

- A pair of **black MTX Marching Shoes**. (Tennis shoes or dress shoes are not acceptable.) Shoe fitting and cost information will be provided during registration at the beginning of each year. Shoes will be ordered in bulk to insure low cost and uniformity of style.
- A pair of **long, solid black socks**
- A **band t-shirt** is to be worn under the marching jacket. □(**NO** sleeveless or muscle shirts will be allowed)
- A pair of **athletic shorts** to be worn under the marching bibbers. (**NO** jeans, tights, yoga

- pants, etc. will be allowed)
- Concert Black attire.
- A pair of **black dress shoes** to wear with tuxedos or dresses.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Band is not a club. However, student leaders are elected and selected by tryout to fill certain roles necessary for the success of band performances. The number of leaders will be determined by the band director.

Drum Majors are selected by tryout in the spring and must meet the following requirements to tryout:

- 1) Must be academically eligible at the time of tryouts.
- 2) Must be an upcoming sophomore, junior or senior.
- 3) Must have participated in district band auditions and UIL Solo & Ensemble contest.
- 4) Must have teacher recommendations completed at the time of tryouts.

Section Leaders are selected by tryout in the spring and must meet the following requirements to tryout:

- 1) Must be academically eligible at the time of tryouts.
- 2) Must be an upcoming junior or senior.
- 3) Must have participated in district band auditions and UIL Solo & Ensemble contest.
- 4) Must have teacher recommendations completed at the time of tryouts.

Color guard Captains are selected by tryout in the spring and must meet the following requirements to tryout:

- 5) Must be academically eligible for previous fall season and at the time of tryouts.
- 6) Must have no unexcused absences during marching season.
- 7) Must have at least two years of color guard experience.
- 8) Must have teacher recommendations completed at the time of tryouts.

Band Council are nominated by the band and selected by directors through an interview process. Band officers may be selected from any grade level (with the exception of President, and Secretary, which must be 11th-12th graders). The following offices will comprise the Band Council:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● President ● Drum Majors ● Secretary ● 3-Librarian ● 3-Uniform Managers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Historian/Reporter ● Mentor Coordinator ● Section Leaders ● 2-Color guard Captains |
|--|---|

ALL STUDENT LEADERS WHO ARE ELECTED AND SELECTED BY TRYOUT MUST

FULFILL THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS TO REMAIN IN THEIR OFFICES:

- 1) Provide leadership through example; promote the highest expectations for band members; and show a zero tolerance for negative behavior. Band Officers with any disciplinary referral in any class will be

- removed from office.
- 2) Remain academically eligible throughout the year. Ineligibility at any time will result in removal from office.
 - 3) Attend ALL summer practices, meetings, and have no unexcused absences from band activities during the year. Drum majors, Color Guard Captains, and Band Council may only miss summer band practices with an excused absence (illness or family emergency).
 - 4) Tryout for All-Region Band.
 - 5) Play a solo at the Region UIL Solo & Ensemble contest.

Veterans Memorial HS Band Boosters

Band Booster members will include band directors, parents and other supporters of Veterans Memorial's outstanding instrumental music program. We support the band program in two important ways: first, Boosters provide adult supervision for student performances, contests, and trips; and second, Boosters raise money. Band Booster funds will provide many necessary items to all Veterans Memorial band students in all grade levels.

The success of the Boosters is extremely important to the continued success of our band program. We need each and every one of you in the upcoming year to make this our most successful year ever! Believe it or not, your child DOES want your involvement in his/her life. We can offer you this small window of opportunity to be involved. Your child will appreciate your involvement and so will the band directors. WE NEED YOUR HELP.

FOOTBALL GAME POLICY

Normal school policy dictates that band students ride to, and return from all off-campus performances as a group using transportation provided by the district. On **rare** occasions, an emergency or conflict with other school-sponsored events necessitates that parents provide transportation to or from an off-campus performance. In such a situation a note signed by the parent should be presented to a director ahead of time, and one of the directors must physically see the parent take the student. This protects both the parents and the school.

Football games are fun, and we are there to support the team. However, we must maintain a class act at all times. Band members can stand up and YELL and SCREAM in support of the team throughout the game, but should always remain in his/her "spot." It is important to remain alert concerning all of the expensive equipment around you as well as the need to be ready to play at a moment's notice. **Only band students are allowed in the band section.**

Students are not allowed to have food or drinks in the bleachers **EXCEPT** for water.

OFF CAMPUS TRAVEL POLICIES - GENERAL

Students who represent the VMHS Band on out-of-town trips are expected to maintain very high standards in every respect at all times. They are expected to attend and be on time for all sessions and activities

scheduled for them. In the event of overnight trips, they are expected to be in their rooms at the times designated by their sponsors.

Each student will be responsible to one or more faculty sponsors who will supervise the activities of the student for the trip. Negligence in attending sessions, in meeting curfew requirements, or in failing to maintain our standards of conduct may make it necessary for the sponsor to send the student home at his/her own expense. Student conduct on school-related trips: Self-discipline is the key element for a pleasant experience for both the sponsor and the student when the student is on a school-related trip.

Students who are involved in a serious disciplinary offense on a school-related trip, such as the use, possession of, or being under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol, stealing, fighting, going in the room of a member of the opposite sex, or some other serious offense will face disciplinary action which may include one or more of the following:

1. The student will be sent home from the trip at the parents' expense.
2. The student will be held liable for damages to property.
3. The student may be removed from this school activity as well as other school co-curricular activities.
4. The student may be placed in In-School-Suspension (ISS), Off-Campus-Suspension, or Alternative Education Placement.

Students' attire during school activities outside the school day should be aligned with school dress code. If there is any question of taste, the director's decision is final. All adults on trips serve as sponsors. Students will be expected to treat them with respect at all times. In the event a parent sponsor gives needed supervision, band students must honor that with utmost respect.

GENERAL – Even though you will not always have a band shirt on, people will find out where you are from. You have the opportunity to make a tremendous name for Veterans Memorial and for yourself. Be courteous and polite at all times. There is no way we can anticipate every possible scenario, so we ask for good judgment. Please use common sense.

RULE OF THUMB: If there is any question in your mind as to whether you should do something or not...DON'T DO IT! It is better to be safe than sorry.

WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THERE WILL BE NO PROBLEMS. IF WE ANTICIPATED A PROBLEM, WE WOULD NOT TRAVEL.

FUNDRAISING

All out-of-town band festival trips (football trips and UIL events excluded) are funded completely by band members, either through private sources (student jobs, parents, etc.) or through student fundraising. Individual student accounts for festival trips are set up and administered through the high school. Profits from fund-raising activities or other deposits to trip funds are maintained/supervised by the director and administrative assistant. Specific payment schedules are set up for spring trips. Students are subject to being dropped from the spring festival trip if published payment schedules are not adhered to. During the year if you need any specific information concerning individual account balances, etc., you can contact the band director to receive an update on your student's account.

As you sign the commitment form at the end of this handbook, understand that this is a FULL YEAR commitment and that our expectations for ourselves and each other are very high.

STUDENT/PARENT AUTHORIZATION & RELEASE FOR OFF-CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

The Corpus Christi Independent School District (“CCISD”) offers a variety of learning activities at designated off-campus locations in which students will have an opportunity to participate. I hereby give permission for my son/daughter to participate in the various off-campus activities associated with the VMHS Performing Arts program. I understand that CCISD may not provide transportation to and from all activities. Students are expected to use school transportation to and from ALL activities, if provided. In the event that CCISD does not provide such transportation, I further understand that I must provide transportation for my son/daughter as a condition of his/her participation in that activity.

In consideration for allowing my son/daughter to participate in off-campus activities, I knowingly and voluntarily agree to assume full responsibility and assume all risk for any accident, loss, damage, and injuries he or she may sustain as a result of or arising out of any aspect of the activity.

Furthermore, I, on behalf of myself, my son/daughter named below, our respective family members, and our respective heirs, legatees, executors, administrators, and assignees, hereby agree to release, acquit, discharge, and hold harmless CCISD, the CCISD Board of Trustees, and any agents, employees, representatives, insurers, successors, and assignees of the entities just named from any and all claims, demands, liabilities, actions or causes of action, of whatever kind or character, whether known or unknown, whether arising out of federal, state, or local statute or common law, including claims resulting from negligence, that I or my son/daughter may sustain arising out of any aspect of the off-campus activity, including, but not limited to, driving or riding to or from the off-campus activity.

PARENT/GUARDIAN – STUDENT RELEASE & AGREEMENT

I HAVE **DISCUSSED** AND **REVIEWED** ALL THE INFORMATION IN THE HANDBOOK WITH MY SON/DAUGHTER, AND I UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS AND MY RESPONSIBILITY AS TO THESE POLICIES AND CONDITIONS. MY SON/DAUGHTER HAS MY PERMISSION TO ATTEND DISTRICT AND OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRIPS AND SCHOOL-SPONSORED EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND CO- CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES. I UNDERSTAND THAT ALLEN ISD AND ALLEN HIGH SCHOOL WILL NOT BE LIABLE FOR INJURIES AND MEDICAL COST FOR STUDENTS. MY SIGNATURE ALSO SERVES AS PERMISSION FOR MY SON/DAUGHTER TO OBTAIN MEDICAL TREATMENT ON A SCHOOL-SPONSORED TRIP.

Student Name (PRINT)

Parent/Guardian Name (PRINT)

Student SIGNATURE

Parent/Guardian SIGNATURE

Date

Date

HANDBOOK CONFIRMATION

I have read and understand all of the contents of the VMHS Band Handbook. I understand all of the rules and regulations that are required to be a member of the VMHS Band. I have also read the "Disclaimer" and understand that a member of the VMHS Band is held to the rules of other organizations in addition to the rules in this handbook.

parent/legal guardian signature

date

student signature

date

2018-2019 Fall Band Schedule

Date	Event	Location	Times
8/6/2018	District Leadership Camp w/Dr. Tim (Leadership only)	VMHS Band Hall	All Day
8/7/2018	Band Booster Meeting	Band Hall	6:00 PM
8/15 - 8/23	Summer Band Rehearsal(Monday-Friday)	Band Hall/Outside	6-8am
8/15 - 8/23	Summer Band Sectionals(Monday-Friday)	Band Hall/Outside	5-7:30pm
8/24/2018	Tailgate	VMHS	6-9PM
8/27/2018	1st day of school rally	VMHS	8:00 AM
8/30/2018	Football Game vs. Edcouch Elsa	Cabaniss (H)	7:30 PM
9/7/2018	Football Game vs. SA Churchill	Heroes Stadium - (A)	7:30 PM
9/11/2018	Band Booster Meeting	Band Hall	6:00 PM
9/14/2018	Football Game vs. King	Buc Stadium (H)	7:30 PM
9/21/2018	Football Game vs. Flour Bluff	Hornet Stadium (A)	7:30 PM
9/26/2018	All-Region Jazz Auditions	VMHS Fine Arts	5:00 PM
10/1/2018	Homecoming Day Carnival/Parade	VMHS	TBD
10/2/2018	CCISD Halftime Showcase	Buc Stadium	7:00 PM
10/5/2018	Football Game vs. Ray (Homecoming)	Cabaniss (H)	7:30 PM
10/6/2018	Saturday Rehearsal & Lunch	VMHS	8AM/11AM
10/9/2018	Band Booster Meeting	Band Hall	6:00 PM
10/12/2018	Football Game vs. Moody	Cabaniss (A)	7:30 PM
10/13/2018	Bay Area Marching Festival	Calallen	TBD
10/19/2018	Football Game vs. Victoria East	Cabaniss (H)	7:30 PM
10/20/2018	UIL Region14 Marching Contest	Calallen	2-10PM
10/21/2018	Texas Jazz Festival	Heritage Park	TBD
10/24/2018	All-region Orchestra Auditions	Laredo United	TBD
10/26/2018	Football Game vs. Miller	Buc Stadium	7:30 PM
11/2/18	Football Game vs. Victoria West (Senior Night)	Cabaniss (H)	7:30 PM
11/3/2018	All-Region Orchestra Clinic & Concert	TBD	TBD

The above schedule does not include all performances and is tentative at the time of this printing. Attendance at all performances, including football games, is mandatory. Football game performances begin on Friday, September 1. Changes in these dates, as well as other contests and other civic events, will be scheduled at a later time and given to you in a timely manner.