



VALDOSTA HIGH SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM

A Guide for Band Members & Parents

**4590 Inner Perimeter RD
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"Music education is an art-form used to cultivate a masterpiece of human potential.

Welcome!

As you begin making plans for next school year and deciding where you will spend your time, energy and effort, we encourage you to become part of the family that is the Valdosta High School Band Program. The Valdosta High School Marching Cats are known as “The Pride and the Power of South Georgia” is made up of 150+ hardworking and dedicated musicians and auxiliary visual artists. We welcome any student who is willing to put forth the effort to continue this superior tradition, both on the field and in the concert hall. Lessons learned from being a member of the band have lifelong implications. Students learn about commitment, the rewards of effort, the joys of friendship and the importance of cooperation and leadership. Band members enjoy band camaraderie and outstanding support from parents, boosters, school administration and the entire Valdosta community. We guarantee you will experience a whole new sense of teamwork, commitment, and accomplishment as part of the VHS Marching Cats!

For new members, this is the “band bible” that keeps us running smoothly and efficiently. Most questions can be answered by consulting THE BAND HANDBOOK or the band website: vhsmarchingcats.com. It is our hope that the information contained in this handbook will be both INFORMATIONAL and INSPIRATIONAL. The advocacy articles, “How Parents Can Help,” and “Parents’ Responsibility to the Band,” are both designed to give guidance to parents. Please read every word of The Handbook so that you are well-informed. We’ve included one Signature Page for you to return, stating that you’re familiar with the information contained in The Handbook.

We continue to provide a well-rounded, comprehensive experience for our students. For the upcoming year, we are very excited about the showcasing our **brand new Marching Cats uniforms!**

As the band program gets better, the most committed students (those who practice) will have the most positive experience. In addition to making private instruction and chamber music a priority, we have renewed our commitment to instill positive leadership qualities in all of our students. These are the “teachable moments” that develop important life skills.

This handbook is designed to answer any questions you might have concerning the program. Please read all of the information and sign the perforated form (Signature Page) in the back of the handbook and return it to the band office. We are honored to be your band directors and are looking forward to a great year!

Musically Yours,

Travis W. Kimber
Director of Bands

Andrew Hill
Assistant Director of Bands

FOREWORD

This booklet is designed as a guide for both parents and students to give specific details concerning all aspects of the band program. It is a living document and can and will be updated and revised as necessary by the band director. For any further information, please feel free to contact any member of the band staff.

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Valdosta High School Band Program to boost the esprit de corps of Valdosta High School and to foster an appreciation of good music through participation in band rehearsals and performances. The band program is “co-curricular” and all performing ensembles are an extension of classroom instruction. While it is recognized that these ensembles and performances may contribute significantly to the cultural life of the school and community and to public relations for the school and county, it should be borne in mind that their primary reason for being is always educational. Performances are inherently and logically connected to instruction in music and they give impetus to the program.

PHILOSOPHY

“Music education is and art form used to cultivate a masterpiece of human potential.”

The philosophy of the Valdosta High School Band Program is based on the fundamental belief that music is a basic and important part of any education and that music education can help develop the total student, academically, musically, and socially.

A STATEMENT OF POLICY

In order to assist band members and parents in understanding areas of responsibility, a statement of band policy is herein set forth. Becoming familiar with this policy will enable each individual to make the most of this great opportunity to be a member of the Valdosta High School band program, becoming a better person and a better musician. We firmly believe that the student should improve through regular practice. In the VHS band program, we feel that when the student has lost the will to improve him/herself or make a better contribution to the band, he is wasting the time and efforts of his or her fellow members and the community by continuing in this program. The HAPPIEST student is the one who is improving through regular habits of practice and daily progress. He or she must not only know right from wrong, but must be able to stand for principles. He or she must develop a high sense of purpose toward which he or she is willing to work. RESPONSIBILITY is the focus behind any level of achievement within

this program. We intend to conduct ourselves in a manner that will facilitate all students in learning and bettering themselves.

Why Music?

- Music Is A Science. It is exact, and it demands exact acoustics. A conductor's full score is a chart, a graph which indicates frequencies, intensities, volume changes, melody and harmony all at once and with exact control of time.
- Music Is Mathematics. It is rhythmically based on the subdivision of time into Fractions, which must be done instantaneously, not worked out on paper.
- Music Is Foreign Language. Most of the terms are in Italian, German, or French and the notation is certainly not English – but a highly developed kind of shorthand that uses symbols to represent ideas. The semantics of music is a most complete and universal language.
- Music Is History. Music usually reflects the environment and times of its creation, often representing its country of origin and / or racial feelings.
- Music Is Physical Education. It requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lips, cheek, and facial muscles in addition to extraordinary control of the diaphragm, back, stomach, and chest muscles, which respond instantly to the sound the ear hears and the mind interprets.
- Music Develops Insight and Demands Research.
- Music is all these things, but most of all, Music Is Art. It allows the human being to take all these dry, technically boring (but difficult) techniques and use them to create emotion. That is one thing science cannot duplicate: humanism, feeling, emotion, call it what you will.

That is why we teach music! Not because we expect you to major in music.

But,

so you will be human

so you will recognize beauty

so you will be closer to God

so you will have something to cling to

so you will have more love, more compassion, more gentleness, more good;

In short, More Life!!

Why Is Music Education Important for Students?

- Music students score higher on the SAT and ACT!
- "At risk" students cite participation in the arts as a reason to stay in school.
- A ten year study by the President's Committee on the Arts showed that music students tested higher on all standardized tests, regardless of socioeconomic group.
- Music helps us to better understand our motives, fears, memories, and to communicate more boldly and creatively - Levitin, This Is Your Brain on Music.

Why Is Music Education Important For Parents?

- 94% agree: music education is necessary for a well-rounded education - 2005 Gallup Pole.
- Schools with music programs have significantly higher graduation rates (90.2% to 72.9%) MENC.
- Music Education enhances cooperative learning, instills disciplined work habits, and correlates with gains in standardized tests.

OBJECTIVES OF THE VHS BAND PROGRAM

- To teach music by its actual performance
- To develop performance skills of the various wind and percussion instruments
- To provide for the musical needs of the school and the community
- To develop discrimination with regard to the selection of music
- To acquaint the students with Music Theory and History and how history and musical composition relate to students' current life and musical experiences
- To provide all students with the opportunity for worthy use of their time, a means for self-expression, and a healthy social experience
- To develop the ability to function as a responsible member of a group, enhance interaction, and develop Esprit de Corps
- To foster leadership skills within each student

The "4 Pillars"

Any great organization relies on a strong foundation and structure.

The VHS Band is built on the following pillars:

1. **"Self-Discipline"**
2. **"Musicianship"**
3. **"Showmanship"**
4. **"Character"**

"ALL IN"

Make sure your student is a full member of the VHS Band Program by being "ALL IN". This means being enrolled and participating in band class, concert band, and the Marching Cats. This will help band students be the best musician they can be and increase band scholarship potential.

Rising 9th band students are required to be enrolled in and participate in the following for both semesters:

1. **Band Class**
2. **Concert Band (Concert Band, Symphonic Band, or Wind Symphony based on audition)**
3. **Marching Cats**

BAND CLASSES

Band at Valdosta High School is more than extracurricular or an after-school activity, **Band is Academic**. All band students are strongly encouraged to be in a band class all four years while attending Valdosta High School. The band program is “co-curricular” and all performing ensembles are an extension of classroom instruction.

PERFORMING ENSEMBLES

We offer performing ensemble classes and students are placed in the following ensembles/classes by audition. Auditions typically take place between February and March for the upcoming school year. All of the classes come together to form the VHS Marching Cats.

Wind Symphony/4th Period Band Class - is the most advanced performing ensemble. It has a limited instrumentation and is comprised of our highest performing students. Most of the members are upperclassmen. Ninth and tenth graders, however, may be placed in this ensemble if they meet the musical standards through audition. This is a performance based class and students are graded on participation in rehearsal and performances. After school rehearsal and performances take place during both the Fall and Spring semesters as part of the class grade. Students must be enrolled in a band class both semesters to participate in the Wind Symphony. Students are placed in this class by audition.

Symphonic Band/2nd Period Band Class - is a premier ensemble with a limited instrumentation for advanced musicians. Students must be enrolled in a band class to participate in the Symphonic Band. This is a performance-based class meaning students must participate in after school rehearsals and performances in the Fall and Spring semesters as part of their class grade. Students are placed in this class by audition.

Percussion Class/1st Period Band Class – is reserved for percussion players grades 9-12. Students are required to perform with the Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, or Concert Band based on audition. This is a performance-based class meaning students must participate in after school rehearsals and performances in the Fall and Spring semesters as part of their class grade. Students are also required to perform with the Percussion Ensemble.

The Marching Cats – the most visible and largest performing ensemble at Valdosta High School. The Marching Cats rehearse Monday – Wednesday from 3:45 – 6:45 P.M. and Thursday from 6:00 – 8:00 P.M. during the fall. **The Marching Cats are an extension of band class instruction.**

Chamber Ensembles - During the fall and spring, chamber ensembles will be formed. ALL band members will be encouraged to perform in a chamber ensemble. Possible groups will be Woodwind Quintet, Brass Quintet, Saxophone Quartet, Horn Ensemble, Trombone Quartet, Low Brass Ensemble, Flute Choir, and Clarinet Choir. There will be a chamber concert in the spring and an opportunity for performance at GMEA Solo and Ensemble Festival.

Jazz Band - We have a place for aspiring jazz musicians of all skill levels in the jazz program. Students must be enrolled in a concert band or percussion class to participate in jazz band. For placement into Jazz Band, an audition is required, yet all students will learn elements of jazz as it is an important part of our music curriculum. Auditions occur in October and the group performs at local/regional events as well as state and district jazz festivals.

Marching Cats Auxiliaries - Auxiliary members operate under the same rehearsal and performance guidelines as the marching band. The Dance class is strongly encouraged of all Color Guard & Dance Line members, especially during the fall semester.

Color Guard consists of the flags that perform with the Marching Cats. The Dance Line enhances drill and formations. Both groups are featured prominently and are considered the “Style and Grace” of the Marching Cats. Members for both units are chosen each spring through a week-long clinic/tryout process. **All members must audition each spring.**

GRADING POLICY

Grades are assigned for the band class. This includes work done during instruction time as well for work done during band rehearsals and band performances. See the band schedule for a full list of rehearsals and performances. A class syllabus will be given at the start of each semester with a full listing of class requirements.

A BAND’S GOTTA PRACTICE

The VHS Band Program has a history of excellence in concert, marching, and jazz band. Band is a co-curricular class. This means that learning takes place both in and out of the classroom. Rehearsals and performances outside of school hours are mandatory for completion of band course requirements.

During the fall, regular marching band rehearsals occur Monday - Thursday typically from 3:45 – 6:45 P.M. and Thursday 6:00 – 8:00 P.M. Rehearsal times may vary depending on circumstances. These rehearsals are for instrumentalists, Color Guard and Dance Team.

In late fall, winter, and spring, the concert bands have after-school rehearsals 2-3 days a week. See the attached schedule.

Symphonic Camp - The Symphonic Camp is two days of intensive training with regionally and nationally recognized clinicians. It will be held at VHS in January each year with a possible camp concert to be held at its conclusion. All students are required to attend Symphonic Camp.

Summer Instruction - There are many nationally known summer institutes for instrumental instruction. Some of the best are Brevard Music Center, Interlochen Arts Camp, Aspen Summer Music Program, Sewanee and Tanglewood. There are also regional summer music camps at the (local university summer music camps). In addition the Marching Cats hold 8 – 12 Summer Sessions for students to keep their skills up during the summer months. See the complete schedule.

Private Lessons - Private lessons on a musical instrument are the best way to improve performance skills. The one-on-one approach allows the student to benefit from individual attention as opposed to a teacher monitoring a class of over sixty. A recent survey of students in the Georgia All-State Band revealed that approximately 85% of the students in the band studied privately. The band directors will be more than happy to assist in the selection of a private teacher (see page 3 of the handbook).

All-State, Region, and District Honor Band - Members of the band program are eligible to audition for the Georgia Music Educations Association All-State and District 8 Honor Band, as well as Region Bands. Please consult the schedule. Students that audition and participate regularly are eligible for special recognition upon graduation from VHS (see pg. 12). Auditioning for honor bands is also great preparation for music scholarship auditions.

CONFLICTS WITH BAND

Conflicts between band and other activities or events are the responsibility of the student. Rehearsal and performance schedules are given out in advance (via the website) so that arrangements can be made. Students should not become involved with activities that may directly conflict with band activities. When outside activities create hardships concerning band, the student will need to consult with the director about alternatives that may be possible. It is the policy of the band to assist students when conflicts occur within the scope of the band policy. Students are reminded that band is a very demanding activity and that involvement in outside activities should be limited to those that are compatible with the band schedule. All conflicts with regard to performances must be worked out in favor of the student's responsibility to band. Work is not an excuse for missing any band activity.

BAND MEMBER RULES

Code of Conduct – Band students shall follow all rules and regulations as set forth by the Valdosta City School System (see VCS student handbook). Students are under school system jurisdiction during all band activities whether on campus or off campus. This shall include but

not be limited to rehearsals and performances. **Penalty for breaking school system rules may range from verbal reprimand to suspension/expulsion from band activities.**

Attendance – Band students are expected and required to attend all band classes, scheduled rehearsals and performances (marching band, concert band, & jazz band). This includes being present the entire rehearsal/class. Coming late and/or leaving early will be considered an absence. An email from a parent/guardian or written notification with parent signature must be provided to the director **before** any absence. In the event notification cannot be provided beforehand, notification from a parent must be provided **immediately** upon students' return. Excused absence is illness or death in immediate family. Absence from band class or rehearsal one day prior to any performance and or absence from two rehearsals prior to a performance for any reason will result in suspension from that performance. A single no call/no show is considered 2 absences. This policy is for all band classes the Marching Cats, Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Symphony, and Jazz Band. **Penalty for unexcused or chronic absence of any kind may range from verbal reprimand to suspension/expulsion from band activities.**

Tardiness – Strict adherence to all practice and rehearsal times is expected of all students. To be early is to be on time to be on time is to be late. Students should arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the start time for all rehearsals to be ready and prepared. No student should arrive earlier than 45 minutes prior to any rehearsal as a safety precaution. **Penalty may range from verbal reprimand to suspension/expulsion from band activities.**

Behavior - Impolite or inappropriate behavior in rehearsal, performance, or any other band related or school function towards but not limited to band staff, students, or other adults (i.e. band parent). **Penalty may range from verbal reprimand to suspension/expulsion from band activities.**

Violence – The VHS Band has a **ZERO TOLERANCE** stance on violence or the threat of violence. Violence is considered but not limited to fighting, bullying, hazing, intimidation, or the threat of fighting, bullying, hazing, or intimidation. **Any student found in violation during school, any band or school related event will be expelled from all band activities including band class, marching band, concert band, jazz band, and all band related activities. Expulsion from the band will happen after the first instance.**

Care of band equipment & property - All students are expected and required to respect band property including all items found in the band room or items related to the band. Damage, theft, or loss of any band equipment or threat of any said offenses to band property will be considered a direct violation. This includes but shall not be limited to school instruments, band uniforms, lockers, etc. All students playing school owned instruments must secure an instrument contract to be signed by a parent or guardian. **Penalty may range from verbal reprimand to suspension from band activities. Student must make restitution for lost, damaged, defaced, or stolen property, and or for repairs.**

Uniform Dress Code – Students are expected to keep uniforms clean and neat for performances. Uniforms must be worn completely on the body when in public at or away from the school whether it is symphonic, concert, or marching band attire. This includes but shall not be limited to pants, clean and appropriate shoes with tied laces, and jackets must be buttoned completely or draped neatly as not to touch the floor. A uniform agreement complete with parents/guardian signature is required of all marching band members. Uniforms must be worn in the manner determined by the band director. Boys are not allowed to wear ear rings and girls may only wear small studs for performances. Students are not allowed to wear any accessories while in uniform including but not limited to bracelets. While in uniform students should never wear head gear of any kind unless instructed to by the director. Girls and boys should avoid extreme hair colors that detract from uniform appearance during performance. During the marching band season hair should be worn in a manner that will allow for the uniform band hat to be worn in the proper position. **Penalty may range from verbal reprimand to suspension/expulsion from band activities.**

The range of penalties will be based on the circumstances and severity of the offense committed. The director reserves the right to discipline any band member for any behavior deemed inappropriate as it relates to the band directly or indirectly.

MARCHING UNIFORMS

- The band will provide the following with regard to the uniform: complete marching band uniform (jacket, trousers, band hat, cape), band t-shirt, shorts.
- Band Dues will cover the following items: 1 pair of gloves, spats, band jogging suit, band polo shirt, and band cap.
- Students are responsible for Dinkles (band shoes), extra band gloves, and practice attire.
- Auxiliary members please consult with auxiliary sponsors for a full listing of items provided and items needed.

MARCHING BAND PRACTICE ATTIRE

Students are expected to wear Valdosta High School band attire and/or colors for every marching band rehearsal. Students are not allowed to wear clothing that is too revealing or any attire deemed inappropriate by a band staff member.

THE 3 PRIORITIES

The top “3 Priorities” of every VHS Band member are:

1. Home
2. School
3. Band

DUTIES OF A VHS BAND MEMBER

- Be on time to all rehearsals and performances. EARLY IS ON TIME – ON TIME IS LATE.
- Come to rehearsal with a GOOD ATTITUDE.
- There is no excess playing (i.e. horsing around on the instrument); Only appropriate warm-up material.
- Make a real effort to improve on a daily basis and establish a good practice routine.
- At the end of rehearsal, put all materials in their proper place.
- Maintain a strong academic standing in all course work.
- Become responsible for and assume responsibility for your own actions. Admit when you are wrong.
- Have a proper respect for yourself and those in authority.
- Read and play music with insight – have musical expectations.

STUDENTS’ RESPONSIBILITY TO THE BAND

As members of this organization, you have a great deal of responsibility. It is essential to any program that if certain expectations are to be met that they coordinate with the privileges, rewards, and duties of the band program.

TO OURSELVES - You have the primary responsibility of developing your own abilities. The benefits of a good instrument and private instruction can never be underestimated. What you put into it is what you will get out of it. The director is ALWAYS available for your guidance and encouragement – just ask!

TO THE SCHOOL – Valdosta City Schools provides us with the resources for rehearsals, performances, and some equipment. The Band Booster Club also provides a support network, both financially and philosophically. We have the responsibility to provide the best possible service to our community.

TO MUSIC - Music has always been a part of our culture. We must take what we have and use it for the betterment of that culture. No one expects virtuoso musicians, only your very best! The great composer Gustav Mahler once said that only 10% of a piece of music is on the page.

If that is the case, then we as musicians have the duty of creating and producing the other 90%. The joy of music is not in everything that is apparent. It must be discovered and created.

TO EACH OTHER - We must always do what is best for the welfare of the group. There can be no selfish acts solely for the benefit of the individual, but for all. Respect each other. If there are conflicts, find a way to resolve them. Never insult another band member's integrity. The word "band" means that we are banded together and that there is no separation or discourse. Sometimes, the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTITUDE

The greatest single factor that will determine the success of any individual or organization is attitude. The kind of person that you are is an individual choice and how we feel about something, which involves attitude, is one of the few actual independent choices that we have in life. It takes intense dedication to reach goals. Students should learn to discipline themselves to daily practice on fundamentals. The "right attitude" must be present along with sincerity, concentration, and dedication as the basic foundation. Such an attitude makes an artistic performance inevitable and is the difference between a winning organization and a mediocre group. You who are in band are a favored few. The band can do much for you. Make the most of it in every rehearsal and performance.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SELF-DISCIPLINE

Because of the nature of the organization, band discipline must be strict. Band students and parents must believe in the ideals, principles, and philosophy of the organization. Each member must always be aware of good behavior and think for themselves. Any misconduct casts a bad light on the school, community, and band program. Any member who casts discredit to the organization by his/her conduct or actions in band, in another class, or on a trip, shall be subject to dismissal from the band program, or may lose a privilege within the program.

BAND AND ACADEMIC SUCCESS GO HAND-IN-HAND

Many band students are enrolled in Honors/AP/IB courses as well as being involved in other challenging academic opportunities. In fact, the study of music and high academic achievement often go hand-in-hand. Band members must learn to manage their time, and many band students find themselves at the top of their class, in National Honor Society, graduating with honors and earning college scholarships.

“FULL” MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES

Our goal is to have students take advantage of the full band experience at Valdosta High School grades 9-12. This includes marching and concert band as well as auditioning for various region, district, and state honor groups. Advantages of full participation include the following: becoming a lifelong lover and performer of music, contributing to the esprit de corps of Valdosta High School, scholarship opportunities, academic recognition, and earning a customized VHS Band Letterman Jacket.

Letterman Jacket – The VHS Band Letterman Jacket is awarded to students that participate in the FULL VHS Band experience. Senior band members must fulfill ALL requirements to receive a VHS Band Letterman Jacket.

- Take a minimum of 6 semesters of band class grades 9-12
- 2 semesters of band class 9th grade
- At least 1 semester of band class each year grades 10-11. Spring semester preferred. Must be in band class of director’s recommendation.
- Be enrolled in band class both semesters senior year.
- Participate in Marching Band grades 9-12.
- Participate in Concert Band grades 9-12 (VHS Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and/or Wind Symphony based on director’s recommendation).
- Be in good financial standing (all band dues paid grades 9-12).
- Auxiliary members, Color Guard & Dance Team, are also eligible for letterman jackets. They must pass the audition each year as well as meet the class requirements by being enrolled in a dance class grades 9-12.

Participation means rehearsing and performing in ALL scheduled events with the student’s assigned band(s). Students not adhering to written disciplinary policies of the school and band will forfeit their eligibility for Letterman Jacket. Any violation of these rules during their senior year after jackets are awarded may result in the forfeiture of the jacket. The student must uphold the goals and standards of the band. It is understood that withdrawal or dismissal from the band prior to graduation of his/her senior year results in forfeiture of the jacket.

Fine Arts/Music Honor Graduation Cords – This is an academic award for students who earn a 4.0 average in band class. Band students must also meet the following requirements to receive nationally and state recognized music honor graduation cords and a recognition certificate upon graduation from Valdosta High School.

- Take 8 semesters of band class grades 9-12. Must be in class of director’s recommendation.
- Make the grade of A each semester in band class
- Participate in Concert Band grades 9-12 (VHS Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and/or Wind Symphony based on director’s recommendation)

- Audition and participate regularly in local, district, regional, and state honor bands.
- Be in good financial standing (all band dues paid grades 9-12).

Participation means rehearsing and performing in ALL scheduled events with the student's assigned band.

“Don’t Stop the Music” Scholarship – The VHS Band Boosters will award a single \$1,000.00 scholarship to one outstanding senior band member each year (starting with the Class of 2021) that exhibits the attributes of a Valdosta High School Band member that chooses to participate in a collegiate band program upon graduation from Valdosta High School. Recipient must meet the following requirements.

- Scholarship recipient to be determined by the VHS Band Staff.
- Recipient must meet the criteria set forth listed under the Letterman Jacket Award and Music Honor Cords Award.
- Recipient must participate in an eligible collegiate band program during the subsequent academic school year after graduating from Valdosta High School.

PARENTS’ RESPONSIBILITY

It is the responsibility of every parent and guardian to see that the policies outlined in the Band Handbook are followed and that the form in the back is signed and returned. This states that you understand the policies as set within, and that any questions are to be addressed with the band director by making an appointment. Each parent is responsible for the attendance of their child at all band functions. It is the responsibility of each parent to see that their child practices his/her instrument daily. The hands of the directors are tied without the help of parents.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

When a “band question” arises, it is important that you get factual information before discussing it with others. If it is a performance issue or anything dealing with the band proper, contact the band director. If it is a fundraising question or anything dealing with parent volunteer issues, talk with the booster club president.

Here are a few other things parents can do to help:

- Show an interest in the music study of your child.
- Take woodwind instruments to the shop once a year for maintenance.
- Find a quiet place where he/she can practice without interruption.
- Stay current on your “fair share.”
- Help the student keep a DAILY RECORD of practicing.
- Come up with a reward system for DAILY practice.

- Keep the instrument in good repair and keep at least three reeds in the case; purchase a metronome and tuner!
- Be extra-careful with school-owned instruments. Repair costs are high!
- Teach your child to be prepared and on time to each rehearsal or lesson.
- Provide private instruction.
- Make faithful attendance at all band activities important.
- Notify the teacher if the student is to be absent for rehearsals or lessons.
- Visit rehearsals occasionally.
- Attend booster meetings, concerts, games, and contests.
- Turn in fundraising money on time.

OUR PARENTS ARE THE BEST BAND BOOSTERS!

Our all-volunteer, parent-led booster organization is highly active and 100% dedicated to making every student's experience in the band program worthwhile, safe, and enjoyable. When your student becomes a member of the VHS Band, you automatically become a member of the Band Booster Association. Our organization gives you a chance to be as active as you want in the band program. Booster meetings are held monthly in the Band Room to keep you informed and involved. Volunteer opportunities range from chaperoning and concessions to uniform maintenance and fundraising. Your leadership skills are also welcome, and with your support, we can continue to have the best band program in South Georgia.

FUNDRAISING CRUCIAL FOR ONE AND FOR ALL

All bands must fundraise to supplement increasingly tighter school budgets. We work hard to provide fundraisers that will give our students the music education they deserve. With a large, active booster organization, no one must feel the need to participate in everything. As the saying goes, "many hands make light work." Proceeds from fundraisers go directly to individual student accounts and the general band operating fund to meet many of the expenses that are part of a thriving music program. However this season because of the drastically reduced dues all fundraiser proceeds will go to the band's general operating fund. See the fundraiser schedule for a full listing of this year's fundraisers.

WWW.VHSMARCHINGCATS.COM - INFORMATION IS KEY

Please use the band's website as your main source of information regarding the VHS Band Program. The band's website provides information regarding performances as well as resources for students and parents.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

PAC – Valdosta Performing Arts Center, 3101 N Forrest St, Valdosta, GA 31602, is the performance venue for the VHS Band.

GMEA – Georgia Music Educators Association. The Georgia Music Educators Association is one of fifty-one state affiliates of the National Association for Music Education.

Concert Band – our introductory level band/performing ensemble. Can also be used to refer to any of our performing ensembles during the late fall, winter, and early spring band season.

Symphonic Band – our intermediate level band/performing ensemble.

Wind Symphony – our most advanced level band/performing ensemble.

Auxiliary – refers to the Color Guard and Dance Team.

Marching Season – the part of the school year lasting from July through November, unless the Director(s) accept an invitation for the band to attend some other function after that time. You would be given ample notice of any extra activities.

Concert Season – the part of the school year lasting from November through late March. Though concert performances can happen at any time during the year.