

The Alternate System

The Villages High School Buffalo Band ranges in size from about 45-55 members each year. We typically compete in the A category as defined by the Florida Marching Band Coalition. This classification is based on the number of winds (woodwinds and brass) in the band:

2015 FMBC CLASS SIZES	
1A	1 - 24 Winds
2A	25-35 Winds
3A	36-56 Winds
4A	57 - 80 Winds
5A	81 or More Winds

The number of color guard and percussion performers does not factor into the classification.

It is imperative that all performers maintain their responsibility to the musical and visual demands of the field show. In one way, our size is actually an advantage, since we have more accountability to each other.

For the 2016 marching season, the Buffalo Band will field 24 winds (13 woodwinds and 11 brass) to compete in the A class. Students who do not earn a spot in the show will become "alternates." The following list explains some (but not all) circumstances that may result in a student becoming an alternate:

- beginning a new instrument
- inconsistent attendance to rehearsals or performances
- habitual tardiness to rehearsals/performances
- failure to report to band camps**
- Enrolling in VHS after instrumentation was sent to the drill writer (June 1)
- repeated failure to bring instrument/music to rehearsal
- wearing inappropriate clothing/footwear to rehearsal
- injury
- failing a uniform inspection
- abuse of school-owned instruments or property

Alternates will not have a spot in the field/competition show, but may earn a spot in the pregame show. Scheduling conflicts that result from athletics will NOT penalize a student.

Expectations for Alternates:

- Continue to attend all rehearsals and performances
- “Shadow” a section leader during rehearsal of field show drill
- Be prepared at a moment’s notice to fill in for another performer

Challenge System

Challenges will be held at the discretion of the director and staff and will determine personnel for the field show. Challenges will consist of a simple marching/playing exercise.