

The Villages High School Band Definition of Culture and Member Expectations

General Rules and Procedures

1. **Academic Eligibility:** The Florida Music Educators' Association requires an unweighted cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher. Students who cannot meet this requirement will not participate in band functions.
2. **In-School Suspension:** band members with ISS are still required to attend afterschool rehearsals/performances.
3. **Out-of-School Suspension:** Band members with OSS are not permitted to rehearse, participate, perform or visit the Band during the time of their suspension.
4. **Prohibited Substances:** Tobacco, alcohol, and drugs are strictly prohibited. Band members in violation of this policy will be removed from the Band immediately.
5. **Off-campus Accountability:** Band members are ambassadors of the Band Program, Band Director, Charter School, and The Villages company. Members are accountable for their actions and speech both in and out of the school. When traveling with the band, members agree to uphold VHS student policies and the terms of this document.
6. **Spectator Etiquette:** At competitions, students will sit together and watch the other bands. Students will refrain from making negative comments about a performance. See the FBA etiquette guidelines.
7. **Social Media:** Band Members are encouraged to explore the marching arts through social media platforms. Band Members may not use social media to publicly criticize the Band, Band Students, Band Director, or other band programs.
8. **Bullying:** The VHS Band has a "zero-tolerance" policy. Students that witness bullying (Cyber or otherwise) must report this to the Band Director immediately.
9. **Profanity:** Band members will not use profanity during band activities.
10. **Appropriate Contact:** Band students and parents may contact the director by sending an e-mail to the official VCS e-mail account. Students and parents are prohibited from texting or calling the personal cell phone of the director and band staff except in the event of emergency.
11. **Punishment:** the parents/guardians agree not to use band as a punishment. (I.e. "my student cannot attend rehearsal because they are grounded.")
12. **Resolution of Conflict:** Band members must exhibit a positive attitude toward Bandmates and the Band Director at all times. If an issue or concern arises, Band members must address these concerns privately with the Band Director.
13. **VHS Student Policies:** (outlined in the student agenda) remain in effect during band activities.
14. **Public Displays of Affection (PDA):** are prohibited during band functions. As per the VHS student agenda, "appropriate gestures of affection such as holding hands, handshakes, and brief hugs are acceptable."
15. **Instruments:** students that use school-owned instruments are responsible for their maintenance. Students and parents agree to pay for repair (or replacement) of the instrument in the event of negligence.
16. **Accommodations:** If your student has a health condition, injury, or disability that may affect his or her participation in band, communicate this to the director so accommodations can be made ahead of time.

Performance Procedures

1. Band Members will adhere to the VHS Band uniform standards (consult the document on Teacher Connection). Members that cannot fulfill these requirements will not perform.
2. Band members may not alter the Band uniform in any way.
3. Don't be on time, be early! Band members must arrive to all performances by the time the Band Director assigns. Section duties must be complete before the start of rehearsal.
4. Band members will show respect to the Band Director, judges, event staff, parent volunteers, and spectators at all times.
5. All members will ride the bus to and from off-campus performances.

Rehearsal Rules and Procedures

1. It is mandatory that Band members attend all rehearsals. The only way for a Band member to have an excused absence from rehearsal is for them to gain permission from the Band Director prior to the scheduled rehearsal. If the Band Director does not grant permission, the absence will not be considered excused. Band members are not excused from rehearsal because of injury or illness.
 - a. Clarification: at the discretion of the band director, members with a **contagious** illness should avoid rehearsal and seek medical attention. A doctor's note will guarantee an excused absence.
2. Band members are required to bring a water bottle to every rehearsal.
3. Band members will adhere to the rehearsal dress code: athletic shoes and socks, athletic shorts, athletic shirt. Band students will wear this uniform for the duration of the rehearsal.
4. Band members are not permitted to demonstrate any behavior that the Band Director deems detrimental to the Band culture.
5. Rehearsals will be closed to the general public unless otherwise noted and/or approved by the Band Director. It is important that we eliminate all potential distractions.

Attendance Policy and Absence Notification

By signing this document, the student and parents affirm their commitment to attend every rehearsal and performance, except in case of extreme extenuating circumstance.

If you have a conflict, you must notify the director with at least two weeks' notice. If you need to notify the director of an absence, please **use the google doc** found on Mr. Deen's Teacher Connection Page.

Four Types of Absences

- a. **Unexcused absences from Rehearsal** cannot be "made up." Student will earn a "0" for rehearsal grade
- b. **Unexcused absences from Performance** cannot be "made up". Student will earn a "0" for the performance grade. Student's role in the program may be modified.
- c. **Excused Absences from Rehearsal** require a make-up assignment at the discretion of the director. The student will fully recover the grade if they complete the make-up assignment:

Middle School Band Volunteering
Make Up Rehearsal Session
Other Project approved by director

- d. **Excused Absences from a Performance** require a make-up assignment, if the student wishes to avoid the grade penalty:
Research Paper - 3 to 10 pages - max 3 sources, no web sources, Arial Font, 12 point, 1.5 spacing

Accountability/Consequences

Any violation of these rules/procedures can result in a disciplinary action ranging from community service, referral, suspension or dismissal from the Band. The band director reserves the right to use discretion in evaluating infractions.

Band member Signature and Date

I have read and understand the *VHS Band Definition of Culture and Membership Expectations* and agree to uphold these standards. I understand that failure to do so will result in appropriate disciplinary action.

Name_____

Signature_____

Date_____

Parent/Guardian Signature and Date

Name_____

Signature_____

Date_____