



VETERANSBAND.ORG

VETERANS HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Grayson Mullis— Director of Bands, grayson.mullis@hcbe.net
Katie Griffin— Associate Director of Bands, kaitlyn.griffin@hcbe.net
340 Piney Grove Rd. Kathleen, GA 31047 • 478.218.7569

WHAT IS THIS THING CALLED “HIGH SCHOOL BAND?”

Veterans High School has a band program that is SUPERIOR in quality. We hope this letter answers the many frequently asked questions or concerns we commonly hear from upcoming band students/parents when considering participation in our superior program.

CAN I PARTICIPATE IN BAND AS A CLASS AND SPORTS?

Yes, with careful planning and coordination of the practice schedules of both athletics and band. Specifically, playing a sport and being in band as a CLASS is never a conflict. Most conflicts arise with after-school rehearsals for marching band and sports. In the spring, our three concert bands rehearse in sectional and full band formats occasionally after school, but provided the student informs us within a 24-hour period, minimum of the conflict, a “sharing” or other similar compromise of the student’s time can usually be worked out.

CAN I DO MARCHING BAND AND SPORTS/CLUBS?

It depends. A large percentage of our students are involved in other extracurricular activities but must learn to balance their schedules as needed. If you are wanting to also participate in a sport/club that meets at the same time as marching band, we will not be able to accommodate that conflict. Additionally, in the event that conflicts do arise, the general rule of thumb is that performances and competitions take precedence over a rehearsal. Above all, communication is key when managing multiple organizations and activities!

IS MARCHING BAND MANDATORY?

No. Marching band is not mandatory, but highly encouraged. The marching band is the most visual aspect of the VHS band program for the community and teaches skills that are essential for success in not only the band class, but in high school. Time-management, commitment, hard work, team-building and determination are daily skills we teach and develop. And, IT IS FUN!

Note: students will not be allowed to “come in and out” of the band program as a result of not wishing to participate in marching band or concert band. This creates interrupted ensemble rehearsal time, and time when the student’s progress on his/her instrument cannot be directly monitored in class every day. Dropping band fall or spring semester for non-academic or resolvable class schedule conflict reasons will result in the student being out of the band program for the entire year, and likely on a permanent basis.

I AM DOING MARCHING BAND...DO I HAVE TO GO TO BAND CAMP AT VHS?

Yes, because missing band camp is like missing 4 weeks of marching band rehearsal! How so? Well...in one day of band camp, we accomplish the same amount of work on the show as in a full week of marching band rehearsal once school has started.

Is Band camp hard? If you mean will it be tiring, for sure! If you mean will you be lost or unable to do what everyone else is doing, NO! A BIG secret has been kept for years, but now it's out: last year, there were 8th graders just like you who thought they'd be lost or unable to do it, and now they're "pros" at it! No kidding!

Band camp is not just marching around all day- we have social time in the afternoon, do indoor sectional music rehearsals in the hot part of the day, and have fun activities scheduled for each day you will be there! It is a hard few days- but it is also a great time, too.

WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT FOR MARCHING BAND?

There are basically two divisions of time for rehearsal of the marching band: Spring/Summer time, and rehearsal time once school has started. Below is a chart that explains the Spring/Summer time commitment. Once school resumes in the Fall, the schedule is very regular; it is charted below as well.

This year, we will have a few summer practice dates before camp starts, but these are totally voluntary and will help you if you attend. Band camp is **MANDATORY ATTENDANCE**.

MARCHING BAND DATES FOR SPRING AND SUMMER

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

DATE	EVENT	WHO IS INVOLVED
April 11-12, 14, 18 2022 (4:00pm-6:00pm)	Color Guard Auditions at the VHS Band Room	All returning Color Guard (aka, flagline) members and prospective rising 9 th Graders
April 11-12, 14, 18 2022 (4:00pm-6:00pm)	Marching Percussion (Drumline AND Front Ensemble) at the VHS Band Room	All returning Percussionists and prospective rising 9 th Graders
April 29, 2022	Commitment Forms for 8 th Grade students due (You can turn them into your current band director or to Mr. Mullis/Mrs. Griffin!)	All 8 th grade students wanting to participate in marching band
May 9-13, 2022 (4:00pm-5:30pm)	Spring Training Come and learn how to march ahead of time, and meet some of our awesome current students!	All MB Leadership and all new 8 th grade students! This event is open to current members as well
July 11, 2022	Color Guard, and Percussion report to Band Camp	Guard and Percussion
July 12, 2022	Leadership reports to Band Camp	Guard, Percussion, and Leadership
July 13-15, 2022	New Marchers (Rookies) report to Band Camp	New members, Guard, Percussion, and Leadership
July 16, 2022	Uniform Fitting Day	All members, except for Guard

July 18-22, 2022	All members report to Band Camp	Full Marching Band
July 26, 2022	Summer Marching Band rehearsal #1	Full Marching Band
July 28, 2022	Summer Marching Band rehearsal #2	Full Marching Band

MARCHING BAND SCHEDULE ONCE SCHOOL STARTS

Monday 3:30-5:30pm (Rehearsals on Mondays will stop once the entire show has been learned)	Regular After School Rehearsal	Full Marching Band
Tuesday 3:30-5:30pm	Regular After School Rehearsal	Full Marching Band
Thursday 3:30-5:30pm	Regular After School Rehearsal	Full Marching Band

SO...HOW DO I JOIN THE MARCHING BAND?

Easy! A commitment form will be given to each band student in April and it will be due by the date on the form. PLEASE SEE THE QR CODE ON THE LAST PAGE.

We hope these pages have served to answer the most frequently asked questions we encounter from new and aspiring VHS Warhawk Squadron Marching Band members. Additionally, you can see that the scope of activity that is possible in an active and superior band program such as ours is quite different from the middle school experience, both for the band student and their parents. It does require a lot of time, but, I promise, it is worth it!

Often, we describe high school band like this: “It’s called band, just like in middle school, but therein the similarities end.” High school band at VHS is truly an opportunity for many wonderful memories, rich musical experiences, and life-changing events that successful young adults need in the “real world,” regardless of their occupational or educational choice upon graduating. No one comes back and says “Quitting band was the right thing for me!” DON’T miss this chance- the chance to be a part of memories and music that are SUPERIOR!

Commitment Forms can be returned to your current band director OR scanned and emailed to Mr. Mullis/Mrs. Griffin at grayson.mullis@hcbe.net/kaitlyn.griffin@hcbe.net

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The base cost to march at VHS is only \$400.00 (Color Guard differs slightly). This fee covers hired staff (not the band director- people we bring in to help with camp!), music costs, arrangements of marching tunes, drill for the field, supplies specifically related to the marching band, and our important staff that work during the season. Other fees include uniform fees and uniform parts. Money should NEVER be the reason not to march. Students are able to obtain and request sponsorships to help offset the costs of the activity, and we are more than happy to work with you regarding extended payment plans if the need arises, and if the plans are maintained and followed. Let me say that again,

MONEY SHOULD NEVER BE THE REASON YOU DECIDE NOT TO MARCH! Please talk to us about any concerns you may have!

**The Marching Band Fee for Wind Players, Drum Majors, and Percussionists includes:
(Refunds will not be offered after payment is received)**

Marching Band Uniform Rental and Dry Cleaning	\$100
Transportation	\$50
Food	\$35
Show Costs (Props/Staff/Drill/Competition Registration)	\$100
General Operations Fund (Music/Equipment/Repairs/Etc)	\$100
Show T-Shirt	\$15
TOTAL	\$400

Please be aware that an additional \$25 will be charged to all **Percussion members** for stick and mallet fees

Additional items required to purchase outside of band fees (These are items you can keep and reuse year-to-year)

Dri-fit Warhawk Squadron Game T-shirt	\$15
Marching Band shoes (ordered through the band)	\$40
Red baseball cap for football games	\$10
School owned instrument rental (covers cleaning prior to band camp and any minor repairs) Baritones, Tubas, Mellophones, any other rental needs	\$50
Marching Band football game shorts	\$10
Marching Band gloves (excludes percussion)	\$4
Stick and Mallet fee (PERCUSSION ONLY)	\$25

**The Marching Band Fee for Color Guard members includes:
(Refunds will not be offered after payment is received)**

Transportation	\$50
Food	\$35
Show shirt	\$15
Halftime Show uniform (ordered new each year)	\$150
Show Costs and General Operations (Props/Staff/Drill/Competition Registration/Equipment/Repairs/etc)	\$120
TOTAL	\$370

Additional items required to purchase outside of band fees (Many of these items you can keep and reuse year to year)

Pre-Game uniform	\$100
Uniform Jacket	\$50
Pompoms	\$15
Shoes	\$40
Gloves	\$15
Backpack	\$20
Practice Flag	\$30

We are currently offering a \$50 off discount for any family who pays IN FULL prior May 25!

If you have any concerns or questions about finances, please reach out to our Band Booster Treasurer at VHSBandTreasurer@gmail.com

THE FIRST PAYMENT OF \$100 **WILL BE DUE BY MAY 25**. Please make all checks payable to VHS Band Boosters. If mailing, please mail all checks to VHS Band Boosters, 340 Piney Grove Rd. Kathleen, GA 31047

WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO MAKE SURE THAT FINANCES WILL NEVER BE THE REASON A STUDENT DOES NOT PARTICIPATE IN MARCHING BAND!

Charms

The VHS Band Program utilizes the Charms Office Assistant program to handle and maintain many details and information regarding to you and your student. You are able to make payments through this system, check our master calendar, see volunteer opportunities, and more!

Each student will have their own specific log-in made for them. You will need your student's ID Number to log in once their Charms account becomes active. Additional information will be sent out regarding how to log in and use Charms later this semester

EIGHTH GRADE EXCUSE LIST FOR NOT WANTING TO DO MARCHING BAND

“I can't memorize music”

TRUTH: All MB members now in the band once said that, and they all did it- are they any different than you? We train you on how to memorize- the music is VERY reasonable to play for most 8th graders. Pass-offs are very reasonable...if you work for it. Anything you do a bazillion times can get memorized!

“I heard band camp for new members is awful!”

TRUTH: We have a very high survival rate for both band camp weeks. In fact, out of last year's 2019 “rookie” class, all survived and are thriving! Only a few have a slight limp! (JUST KIDDING!)

“I don't know how to march”

TRUTH: Walking is a skill that took you roughly 9-18 months of your life to learn. We guarantee you will learn to march like a pro in 6 hours! In fact, usually our best marchers are those who have just learned- they out-march the vets almost all the time!

“I don't like getting sweaty/cold” (be sure to use a whiny voice when saying this...)

TRUTH: Yes, MB is an outdoor activity, and we have no power over the weather. However, in hot weather we take a lot of water breaks. We take every reasonable precaution. TRULY successful professionals know the value of REAL work ethic!

(YAWN...) “I'm lazy”

TRUTH: If you're willing to admit that openly as an excuse to not do a great activity like marching band, then marching band may not be for you. Band teaches a high work ethic, and IT IS FUN, TOO! But, it's not a place for lazy people, we admit.

"I can't afford it"

TRUTH: Money will never be a reason that someone cannot participate. In cases where a legitimate financial situation exists that warrants it, we will work out payment plans, extend deadlines, etc. to make the activity financially feasible. We have a history of making this happen for people who need it. Money is NOT a problem, as long the recipient of the financial aid/help shows effort in re-paying it.

"It takes too much time"

TRUTH: The marching season is "intensive" for a 12-week period, roughly from the 1st week of August through the last week of October. After marching contests end, we cut the MB rehearsal schedule back to about an hour a week- just enough to make sure Friday night games rock! And, MB is the place where you'll make memories that last a lifetime....A very small sacrifice for such a wonderful experience.

"It isn't fun"

TRUTH: We offer this fun guarantee: If you don't like MB after we've been to band camp, then you may get out at that point. We can say this because after someone has experienced enough of MB to take them through the pre-camp and band camp schedule, only every few years do we ever have anyone decide it wasn't for them. Unfortunately, some 8th graders make this decision before they even try it, not having a clue what it really is, or operating on false information and rumor. ASK A VHS MARCHING BAND MEMBER if you don't believe this letter!

**Commitment Form QR Code – MUST
COMPLETE BY APRIL 29**

