

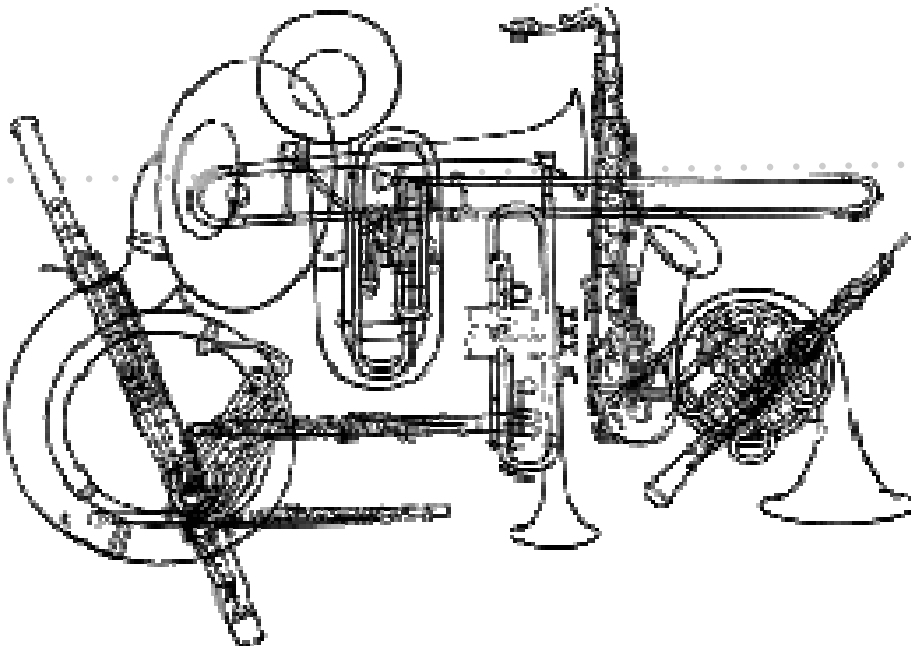
VICKSBURG MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK

2014-2015

SCHOOL YEAR

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2014-2015 VMS BANDS CALENDAR

These are the events that have been scheduled thus far. It is possible that some additional performances will be scheduled as the year progresses.

SEPTEMBER

Monday	8th grade band rehearsal (HS football field)	6:00—7:30 pm
Friday	8th grade pre-game performance with the VHS Marching Band (HS)	6:00 pm

NOVEMBER

4 Tuesday	District XI Middle School Honors Band (by audition) (PAC)	all day
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DECEMBER

16 Tuesday	6th, 7th & 8th Grade Winter Concert (PAC)	7:00 pm /call time 6:30 pm
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JANUARY

31 Saturday	8th Grade Jazz Band Dinner Dance (Air Zoo)	6:00 pm /call time 5:30 pm
Friday	8th Grade/HS band lock in (8th Graders leave at 11:30 pm) (HS)	

MARCH

2 Monday	7th & 8th Grade Band Pre-Festival Concert (PAC)	7:00 pm /call time 6:30 pm
14 Saturday	District Band Festival (TBA)	TBA

APRIL

18 Saturday	7th and 8th Grade Solo and Ensemble Festival (at Schoolcraft HS—not required)	TBA
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MAY

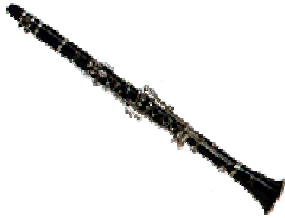
Sunday	3rd annual Walk to Music Walkathon (VHS stadium)	1 pm
19 Tuesday	6th, 7th & 8th Grade Band Spring Concert (PAC)	7:00 pm /call time 6:30 pm
25 Monday	8th Grade Bands Memorial Day Parade (Fulton)	11:30 am

All performances in bold print are required.

KEY: MS = MIDDLE SCHOOL HS = HIGH SCHOOL PAC = PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

General Information

Welcome! The Vicksburg Middle School Band Program has a long history of pride and success. Much of the success can be attributed to students' dedication to the band program, their desire to succeed and the personal discipline to practice and to be model band members. There are four performing ensembles within the program:



Beginning Band (6th Grade) Seventh Grade Band

Eighth Grade Band Eighth Grade Jazz Band

Sixth grade students perform in 2-3 concerts per year. Seventh and eighth grade students perform in a variety of events such as concerts, band festivals, honor band, a parade (8th grade) and solo & ensemble festival. The jazz band also performs at jazz night out and for elementary students.

Philosophy

The philosophy of the VMS Band Program is that anyone who wants to learn a musical instrument should have the opportunity to do so. Students who have never played an instrument must either start in the sixth grade or take private lessons in order to join the band at a later date. All bands have the same goals:

- To furnish members with an invaluable experience in music as an art form
- To serve the school and community through quality performances
- To develop individual responsibility and self-discipline
- To encourage and develop leadership and teamwork skills

"...anyone who wants to learn a musical instrument should have the opportunity to do so."

Expectations

There will always be high expectations for members of a performing ensemble. Good attendance at school is a must because every member of the band is a part of our team. Occasionally there will be after school rehearsals that students will be required to attend. Students may also be asked to stay after school to receive extra help. Most importantly though, is that **every performance is absolutely required**. Every person in the band is important, and when even one student is absent from a performance, the whole group suffers.



Every member of the band is part of a team.

Rules and Consequences

In order for each performing ensemble to reach its potential, there must be a set of guidelines to follow. **The rules insure that everyone has an equal chance to participate and learn.**

RULES

1. **Follow ALL directions** (such as how to put away stands and chairs, leaving cases in the storage area, putting folders away, etc.)
2. **ALWAYS have your materials with you at your seat** (music, instrument, PENCIL, extra reeds, oil, PENCIL, music books, paper, PENCIL, folder, etc.) You still **MUST** be in the room when the tardy bell rings. The order of music will be on the board, and if you are not ready at the down-beat, you will be marked tardy.
3. **Be an active learner**. Pay attention, try to do your best, and be respectful to others. When someone is on the podium, working with a section or individual during rehearsal, do not talk or be disruptive. Raise your hand if you have a question and wait to be called on.
4. **Gum, food and beverages (except water) are not allowed in the band, practice or storage rooms** without a band director's permission.
5. **Never touch an instrument that is not yours** (This includes placing cases, books, etc. on xylophones or timpani) If you damage an instrument you are responsible to pay any repair bill and you may be sent immediately to the principal's office for further disciplinary action.
6. **Take care of your music**. If you lose or badly damage your sheet music or school owned music books, you are responsible to pay the replacement cost. Each sheet of music is \$1 and books are individually priced.

CONSEQUENCES FOR BREAKING RULES

- 1st time: Warning and loss of 1 point
- 2nd time: Loss of 2 points
- 3rd time: Loss of 3 points and 1/2 hour detention (slip signed by parent)
- Disruptive students may be sent into the hallway immediately.

If the problem is severe, or recurring you will be sent to the office to talk with Mrs. Kuhlman or Mr. VanDussen. Your parents will also be contacted.

EXCEPTION FOR RULE #2:

If you do not have your instrument you will receive a detention on the second offense.



Instruments

- Instruments do need repair and maintenance from time to time. If your child's instrument is in need of repair and you are renting an instrument from Meyer Music, we will send it in for you. A representative from Meyer Music picks up and delivers instruments at the middle school twice weekly. **If you are not renting from Meyer Music but would like them to repair your child's instrument, please write us a note, email or give us a call.** Repairs usually take one week or less and are delivered back to the middle school when they are completed.
- If you have purchased or rented an instrument from Marshall Music, please take it to their Portage store for repair.
- If you are not renting an instrument, you may wish to contact Tim Richmond. Tim is a local expert on instrument repair, and was the head of Marshall Music's instrument repair department. He does great work and is inexpensive. Tim's number is 679-4585. You will need to take your child's instrument to his home in Schoolcraft. You could also take your instrument to Marshall Music in Portage
- If your child is using a school owned instrument, you are responsible to pay for any repair that isn't caused by normal wear and tear.



Uniforms

7th & 8th Grade (uniform)

- Red polo shirt (must be ordered through the band program)
- black dress pants (absolutely **NO** jeans)
- black socks
- black dress-up shoes
- black belt, if needed

Vicksburg band uniform shirts are \$15.00 each. Please make your check payable to Vicksburg Middle School.. Payment deadline is Friday, September 26th.



Sixth Grade (No uniform)

- Girls** - a dress, nice skirt (knee length or longer)
or dress pants
blouse
dress shoes
- Boys** - dress pants (**NO** jeans)
a nice shirt (a tie if you would like)
nice shoes

Band Officers and Duties

Seventh and eighth grade band members have band officers to help keep the program running smoothly. Some are elected by the band, but most are appointed by the director after consulting the candidates' previous teachers. The different officers and their duties are:

President - elected position

- Responsible directly to the band director, will conduct the band as needed
- Plans band parties
- Assists any substitute teacher when the director is absent
- Fills in for secretary, treasurer/librarian if officers are absent



Secretary - appointed position

- Takes attendance every day
- Records weekly participation points
- Checks uniforms at performances
- Checks tardiness and attendance at performances



Librarian/Treasurer - appointed position

- Organizes band library and active drawer
- Distributes and collects sheet music
- Copies music
- Sells supplies to band members (includes reeds, valve oil, flip folders, lyres, etc.)

Grading policy

- Participation - 40%
- Playing or written tests (concerts are also considered playing tests) - 50 %
- Practice Records—10%
- If you forget your instrument on a test day, you will automatically fail the test.

All performances are required

Participation Points

Daily participation (playing and behavior) is 40% of the each student's total grade. All students may earn up to 3 participation points a day, totaling 15 points at the end of the week. Most students earn all 15 participation points each week, but points are deducted for any behavior that hinders the progress of the individual student or the entire band. Such as:

- Any disruptive behavior (talking, not being attentive, not ready to play, etc.) - 1 point
- Tardiness (including not being prepared to play at the beginning of class) - 1 point
- Unprepared for class (no music, pencil, reeds, oil, etc.) - 1 point
- No instrument - 3 points
- Sent out of class - 3 points

Please note the rules regarding unexcused absences from performances in the Vicksburg Middle School Student Handbook:

Any unexcused absence from a performance automatically results in the band grade being lowered a minimum of two letter grades. If you know that you will be out-of-town for a performance, you must give the director a note or send an email no later than two weeks before the performance in order for it to be considered an excused absence.

- Any student who misses a performance and receives an **excused** absence, **will be required to complete a written assignment.**
- Any student who is asked to move, or is removed from the auditorium during a performance will be automatically referred to the office for disciplinary action.

Creating Music is a Reward

Music is exciting. It is thrilling to be sitting in a group of musicians playing (more or less) the same piece of music. You are part of a great, powerful, vibrant entity. And nothing beats the feeling you get when you've practiced a difficult section over and over and finally get it right (yes even on the wood block). Music is important. It says things your heart can't say any other way, and in a language everyone speaks. Music crosses borders, turns smiles into frowns, and vice versa.

Dan Rather
Retired CBS Anchorman and Author



Band Supplies

Many of the supplies for band, such as reeds, valve oil, and books, are available for purchase in the band office. If we do not have an item in stock, we will order it for you.

Please send in a check or money order payable to VMS for any amount over \$10.00.

Clarinet Reed	\$2.25	Rotary Oil	\$4.50
Bass Clarinet Reed	\$3.25	Slide Grease	\$3.50
Alto Sax Reed	\$3.00	Traditions of Excellence Book	\$10.00
Tenor Sax Reed	\$3.25	Name Tags	\$1.25
Bari Sax Reed	\$4.00	Cleaning Snakes	\$6.00
Cork Grease	\$1.75	Clarinet Swab	\$6.00
Mouthpiece Brush	\$3.00	Saxophone Swab	\$6.00
Oboe Reed	\$10.00	Polishing Cloth	\$5.50
Bassoon Reed	\$11.00		
Valve Oil	\$3.00		
Slide Oil	\$3.00		



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We're on the web!
www.vicksburgbands.com

The VMS Band Program is intended to be an enjoyable experience for all students. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mrs. Stoll or Mr. Rosier.

We also need volunteers to assist with fundraising, and chaperones for all band events.

Vicksburg Middle School Band Handbook Agreement Form

We have read and discussed the policies and guidelines for all VMS band members. We agree to adhere to them and we understand that if the student chooses not to follow the rules, he/she will face consequences. We also understand that **all performances are required** and that a student's grade will be lowered for having an unexcused absence from a performance.

VMS Band Member

Parent/Guardian

Phone Number

Email Address

Please sign and return this portion by Monday September 8th.

