

VAN METER 6-12 MUSIC HANDBOOK

WELCOME TO THE VAN METER SECONDARY MUSIC PROGRAM

Whether you are a returning “veteran” or joining us for the first time we’re glad you’ve decided to be a part of what we hope will be a rewarding, challenging, exciting and fun experience through the study of music here at Van Meter Community School.

PROGRAM GOAL

The goal of the Van Meter secondary music program is to help each student develop academically, musically, socially and personally by participating in high quality music education and performance experiences.

GENERAL POLICIES

All members of the performance organizations are required to attend all practices and performances. The only exceptions would be absences as outlined in your Van Meter Student Handbook. Remember, you are part of a team and everyone on the team is counting on you to do your part.

CALENDAR

The schedule of all known performances for the current year can be found on the music department wiki at: vmmusic.wikispaces.com it is also printed and offered to all students to take home. You may request a hard copy be sent to you through the mail at any time.

CONCERT ATTIRE

All 6-12 music students must have solid black shoes, socks and pants. 9-12 band students must also have a white, long-sleeve, button up shirt with a collar.

BASIC PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

All students must be enrolled in chorus and/or band to participate in those activities or any offshoot of them. Occasionally this requirement may be waived due to schedule conflicts that can’t be resolved. The following factors will be taken into consideration before any waiver of this requirement is allowed.

1. Past involvement in corresponding activity
2. Attendance history
3. Agree, in writing, to meet the obligations of the group for no credit

JAZZ BAND / CHAMBER CHOIR / SHOW CHOIR

These groups have the same objectives, goals, rules and grades as band and chorus with the following exceptions.

1. Members must be in the corresponding large group.
2. Are by audition only
3. Will have greater performance demands in both literature and number of performances.
4. Eligibility to remain in these groups will depend on the following factors:
 - a. Demonstration of competency on individual parts
 - b. Over-all attitude and effort
 - c. Rehearsal and performance attendance

PEP BANDS

Pep bands are open to all 6-12 students who demonstrate the ability to perform to expectations.

Goals:

1. The students will represent and promote the music department, athletic activity, school and community in a positive and sportsmanlike manner.
2. The students will play a variety of "pop" music including, but not limited to, rock, blues and jazz.

Objectives:

The student will demonstrate proper playing technique and musical competency by playing all music to satisfactory performance levels.

Letter Credit: Football Pep Band = 15 points Basketball Pep Band = 20 points

Students must attend all practices and performances for full credit toward award letter.

MARCHING BAND

Marching Band is required of all 9-12 band students, Rehearsals currently are held during class time. Marching band will perform the pre-game at all home football games and at least one half-time show. Marching band will perform at 1- 3 parades annually.

Letter Credit: Football MB = 20 points Parade MB = 15

MUSIC ROOM and AUDITORIUM RULES

The music room and all music events will be safe environments. Bullying, harassing and/or belittling behavior will not be tolerated.

1. Always have a sharpened pencil with you at rehearsal.
2. Be in your correct seat, with your music and all needed materials by start time.
3. No food, candy, gum or drink (other than plain water) is allowed in the music areas.
4. Listen carefully to the director and follow directions the first time given.
5. Do not talk without permission even if your part isn't rehearsing at the moment.
6. Behave in a manner that demonstrates self-respect and respect for others.
7. Do your best, think positive and concentrate on improving.

Consequences:

1. Verbal warning and possible detention
2. Parent notified
3. Parent conference with possible removal from class

GENERAL MUSIC TRIP PROCEDURES

1. Each student must complete and turn in a parent signed orange sheet prior to the trip.
2. Students are responsible for their instrument, music, uniform, etc. (includes all school issued property).
3. Upon arrival to destination all students will remain on the bus until further directions have been given.
4. After the performance all equipment must be reloaded and everyone must meet at the predetermined location before changing or leaving with parents.
5. Students will stay in the area of the group and **never leave unaccompanied.**
6. Music trips are arranged as educational experiences therefore students should be in attendance at the events and not roaming the host campus etc.
7. If an emergency arises the student must notify the director or a chaperon immediately.
8. All students are expected to ride the school provided transportation to and from events unless a parent or guardian has made other arrangements, in writing, with the director.
9. Remember, while on music trips you are representing the Van Meter School and community and should do so with pride and dignity.
10. **ALL SCHOOL RULES APPLY AT ALL TIMES!**

"EVERY OTHER YEAR" H.S. MUSIC TRIP

1. All the above rules apply
2. All 9-12 music students who have no unexcused absences from performances, are academically eligible, have turned in all required paperwork and have paid the cost of the trip) may participate.
3. Students who have participated in the school music department for two consecutive years will receive a \$100.00 scholarship from the VMPAB.

LETTERING CRITERIA

Award letters are presented at the annual VMPAB Banquet in May and are earned as follows:

- 1. MUST ATTEND THE FALL AND SPRING CONCERTS. These dates are set and published months in advance. The only excused absences will be personal illness, serious illness or death of relative.**
- 2. Earn a minimum of 35 Extra Credit Points for each group (chorus and/or band).**

Students who earn 100 points above those required for letters will also be awarded a service star for each 100 points earned.

Currently extra points are earned in the following ways:

Notes:

1. To earn all points possible for performance groups the student must be at **ALL** practices and performances during the year.
2. One event/group can only be used for one category of points.
 - a. Ex. You cannot count a performance you were in *also* as a performance you have seen.

35 Points Each - Jazz Band and Show Choir

20 Points Each - All-State Auditioner, All-State Member, Musical Participant, SCIBA Honor Band, Chamber Chorus, Football Marching Band, Basketball Pep band, State Solo and Ensemble Contest, Set up *and* tear down at 5 or more performances

15 Points Each - Conference Honor Band, Conference Honor Choir, Central Honor Choir, GV Honor Band, Vocal and Instrumental Technique Class, Football Pep Band, Parade Marching Band

10 Points Each - Musical Stage Crew, VM's Got Talent Performer, Outside solo/ensemble performances

5 Points Each - Outside concerts you attend (must have proof such as ticket stub, program or parent note)

LEARNING TARGETS

The four main learning targets for music performance classes are:

1. Read music.
2. Perform music.
3. Notate music and define music terms.
4. Other performance factors.

Included in the above are:

1. Tone quality
2. Intonation
3. Rhythm
4. Balance, blend
5. Technique
6. Interpretation and musicianship
7. Diction (vocal); Articulation (band)

General music standards are:

1. Read, notate, and perform music.
2. Create an original composition/arrangement.
3. Listen, analyze, evaluate, describe music and music performances.
4. Understand relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.
5. Understand music in relationship to history and culture.
6. Identify key composers and works from the various musical periods.

MUSIC GRADES AND REPORTING ON INFINITE CAMPUS

Music grades are based on mastery of the learning targets above. Those learning targets remain the same regardless of the experience level of the student. The difficulty level of the music performed, to demonstrate mastery of those targets, does change as the student gains experience.

It is possible that a student will demonstrate mastery of all the targets on one selection but not another selection. Therefore, getting an “A” on one performance skill (song or scale set) doesn’t mean the final grade on Infinite Campus will be an “A”. The final grade is based on performance of all performance skills assigned according to the district grade descriptor policy.

Our belief is that if a student comes to class regularly, participates fully in class, and attends the performances they will at least be at the “C” level of mastery of the learning targets. Therefore, Infinite Campus will show a “C” on all targets until or unless the student comes in and individually demonstrates mastery of the targets in each performance skill assigned. As performance skills are performed at the “A” or “B” level, the skills for those performance skills will be recorded in Infinite Campus.

When you look at Infinite Campus, and the grade for the performance skill is a “C”, you know that you or your child has not been in to demonstrate the “A” or “B” level of mastery.

PARENTS

If you have any questions or concerns, would like information on how you can help with our music program, would like information on music advocacy, or research on the effect and benefits of music education or Performing Arts Booster information please contact us at:

Mr. Long

(515)996-2221 ext 362
bob.long@vmbulldogs.com
(515)306-6877 cell

Mrs. Schildberg

(515)996-2221 ext 362
brianne.schildberg@vmbulldogs.com

For complete information and schedule of events please go to:
vmmusic.wikispaces.com

Please sign and return the bottom portion of this page acknowledging the receipt of the Van Meter 6-12 Music Handbook

_____ have received the VM 6-12 Music Handbook
(student signature)

(parent signature)

