

2018-2019 Vanlue Wildcats Band Handbook



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I. INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Vanlue High School band program. As with any organization, your individual commitment and dedication will determine our success as a group. As your director, I am fully committed to the betterment of the Vanlue High School Band. I am confident that you will find membership to be a satisfying and rewarding experience. As we continue to strive for excellence, we are reminded that the band experience is an exercise in cooperation. Band is a team effort and success comes from commitment and dedication to a common goal. This handbook has been written for the Vanlue High School band members and their parents with the intention of providing information regarding the various policies, regulations, and activities of the Vanlue band program.

II. The Band Program

As a member of the Vanlue High School band you will have the opportunity to participate in a number of diverse musical activities. Membership in this organization will provide a great educational opportunity as well as an enjoyable experience. In order for the program to run well, all students must realize their responsibility to the band. Students must be responsible as well as disciplined.

MARCHING BAND

The Marching Band is an integral part of the pageantry and excitement generated at Vanlue football games in the fall. The band will provide entertainment during the pre-game and half time activities, as well as provide spirit and support for the Vanlue team and its fans. The band also participates in a number of parades, which will be announced well in advance to avoid conflict. The band may also participate in a limited number of special events, such as band festivals.

A band camp is held at Vanlue High School in August, usually about two weeks before classes are scheduled to begin. These important rehearsals are where we learn the marching fundamentals and musical skills needed to present our fall schedule of performances. Attendance at band camp is **MANDATORY!!!** Failure to attend any of these rehearsals may exclude students from participating with the band at one or more performances.

Section leaders will be chosen by the director on the basis of:

1. Leadership ability
2. Marching ability
3. Playing ability
4. Experience
5. **ATTITUDE!**

Section leaders will be responsible for the alignment, conduct, and marching style of the squad. In addition, he/she is expected to work with any individual member of his/her squad having difficulty. Respect others, and all will be fine. Band members are expected to listen to and follow the direction not only of the director but also of the section leaders.

Majorettes are a part of the marching band. Majorettes are required to be in band and be in grades 9-12. Class conflicts as with any other band member will be taken into consideration on an individual basis. Majorettes will participate in all band activities including playing in the stands at football games, fund-raisers etc.

Majorette tryouts will be held at the end of each school year. They will be judged by the majorette advisor, band director, and one other qualified judge. Clinics may be held before tryouts. Attendance is mandatory. Scoring will be determined by the following: twirling ability in a group routine, twirling ability in a solo routine, marching alone, marching in a group, how well they work together, and academic eligibility. The number of majorettes will be determined by the judging panel with a maximum of six.

Uniforms will be chosen by the band director and paid for by the individual majorettes. Equipment other than batons will be furnished by the boosters with each majorette responsible for her issued equipment.

CONCERT BAND

At the conclusion of the fall marching season, auditions will be held for concert band. Students must be members of marching or have the permission of the director to be in concert band. Emphasis will be on basic musicianship, fundamental skills, and performance techniques during the concert season. The selection of music will be varied. Concert band will present a number of formal concerts.

PEP BAND

The pep band provides spirit and support for the Vanlue winter sports teams. The pep band will perform at designated boy's and girl's basketball games, and various assemblies throughout the year. Some after school rehearsals may be required. Although a purely volunteer, non-credit group, once you are a member, you are expected to be at performances and rehearsals. The success and quality of the group depends upon it.

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE CONTEST

Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the annual Ohio Music Education Association Solo and Ensemble Contest. The purpose of this contest is to promote and encourage students to improve basic musicianship through solo and ensemble performance. Music performed must be selected from a list published by the Ohio Music Education Association. The director will help with selecting and preparing music for the adjudicated event.

III. Organizational Structure

A. Student Officers

Each year, officers will be elected by the band members after the Spring Concert, and will assist the director in the operation of the band program. Offices and their responsibilities are as follows:

Upper Classman/Senior

- Student representative of the band
- Heads and appoints committees for social events, fund raising, etc.
- Coordinates student officers

Vice-President (Sophomore, Junior or Senior)

- Assist the president with ALL activities
- Assume the responsibilities of president when necessary

Secretary (9 – 12)

- Arrange to send invitations, thank you and get-well cards, and other correspondence from the band
- Take minutes at all band officer meetings

Public Relations (any grade)

- Assists the Secretary with correspondence
- In charge of publicity for concerts

The band director will appoint the following officers:

Librarians (any grade)

- Distribute and collect all band music, folders, and other music-related items

IV. Vanlue Band Code

1. *Students who participate in our school sponsored music program must conduct themselves in a way as to reflect favorably on themselves, the music department, their school, and their community. It is expected that they will follow the instructions of the music staff. All school regulations apply for music events and practices. If found being in violation of the code of conduct, the musician's privilege to practice will rest solely on the discretion of the band director. Please find below a listing of the Vanlue Student Conduct Code for music.*
2. *The Vanlue Music Department Code of Conduct will be in effect from the first day of summer rehearsals and parades until dismissal on the last day of school.*
3. *All summer band and pre-season activities are subject to this policy. Students included are those in grades 7-12. Students are subject to this policy the day of the first rehearsal.*
4. Music Department Code of Conduct

ANY MUSICIAN WHOSE CONDUCT IS JUDGED TO REFLECT DISCREDIT UPON THEMSELVES, THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT, OR THE SCHOOL WILL BE SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

SPECIFIC AREAS OF MISCONDUCT, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- Missing practices or meetings
- Insubordination
- Violations of the Vanlue Student Code of Conduct and/or any policy as set forth by the Vanlue Board of Education
- Violations of band rules and policies as established by music staff
- Student Expulsion Due Process (in accordance with ORC Section 3313.66)

V. Procedures & Policies

A. Attendance Policy

Band members must attend all rehearsals and performances. Members who are not in their places at the designated roll call time with the proper equipment will be marked absent, tardy, or excused as the case may be.

Daily Rehearsals

Students must remember that their attendance and performance is important to everyone else in the group. It will affect the total success of the band. **An unexcused absence from class will result in the lowering of your grade** in addition to any disciplinary action taken by the director and school office. Just remember that those around you are depending on you. **Lack of participation will also result in the lowering of the student's grade.**

Performances

ATTENDANCE AT ALL SCHEDULED BAND PERFORMANCES IS MANDATORY!!!!

Any unexcused absence from a required performance WILL result in the lowering of a student's grade and could lead to dismissal from band.

Excused absences

The few exceptions to the rule of mandatory attendance at performances are:

A personal illness or injury, a family emergency, a religious holiday, or participating in another school sponsored activity (with the permission of the director.)

In order to be excused for the above reasons, a note, written by the parent or guardian, must be presented to the director as soon as possible. Phone calls from parents or guardians are acceptable but need to be followed by a note. Failure to present a valid excuse will result in an unexcused absence.

Band members who have an excused missed performance will be required to do a makeup assignment. They will not be exempt from having a grade for that performance. The makeup assignment will be a written assignment of the director's digression.

If the director determines that an individual student is not prepared enough to perform at a specific event (due to illness or missed rehearsals), the student is still required to attend the event with the band and be in full uniform unless personally excused by the director.

B. BAND EXPECTATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

EXPECTATIONS:

1. Be on time and prepared. During school hours students are expected to be in their seats 3 minutes after the tardy bell rings & ready to play.
2. Listen when the director is in front of the class.
3. No Gum, Food, or Beverage in the Band Room.
4. Follow directions the first time.
5. Show respect for others and yourself.
6. Treat music, instruments, and equipment with care.
7. Be a team player and work together.

CONSEQUENCES:

1. Warning
2. Parent Contact
3. Detention
4. Office Referral
5. Dismissal from the Band

**Consequences will be determined on a case by case basis with severity of the infraction taken into consideration.

C. TRIP AND BUS REGULATIONS

- All band members must travel to and from activities on transportation provided by the school.
- Only band members, staff, and chaperones are permitted to ride school busses.
- If a parent wishes to have their child ride home with them after a performance, the parent must present a signed note to the director in advance, and must personally meet with the director upon leaving with their child.
- Be courteous to drivers and chaperones. They are in charge and you are to follow their directions.
- Remain seated at all times. Keep heads, hands, and arms inside the bus.
- No screaming, whistles or other loud noises are permitted.
- Any use of mp3 players, etc. is at the discretion of the driver and the chaperones.
- Playing of instruments is NOT allowed on the busses at ANY time.
- No food or drinks are allowed on the bus.
- Upon arrival, all are to remain on the bus until you are given directions.
- If these rules are not followed seating charts and other appropriate action may be taken.

D. FOOTBALL GAME PROCEDURES

On game night, students will be expected to arrive at school early enough so that they can change into their uniforms, prepare their instruments, and be in place at the designated roll call time. Any changes will be announced by Thursday of game week.

After the game, the band will return to the band room where students will return their instruments and uniforms to the proper place.

E. GRADING SYSTEM

Band is a full-year class that carries one full credit for each year. Band is both a curricular and an extra-curricular activity. Therefore, every band activity in which a student participates, both inside and outside of the classroom, must be taken into consideration in the grading process.

Grades will be based on the following:

1. Development of musical skills
2. Attendance and behavior at all performances
3. Attendance at daily rehearsals
4. Daily rehearsal grades that are based on behavior, attitude, and cooperation
5. Written/Playing quizzes

Students will be expected to perform at a certain level on their band instrument. Students will be periodically tested on their understanding of the basic fundamentals of playing their instruments (scales, rhythms, etc.), knowledge of musical terms, and performance of required music. Also, playing or written assignments will be figured into the overall grade. Students need to show evidence of improvement through consistent practice.

F. BAND FIELD TRIPS

Students must maintain proper attendance and classroom grade eligibility to participate in any field trip. Final decisions on participation will be made by administration.

VI. UNIFORM REGULATIONS

The summer marching uniform consists of:

- Vanlue Band Polo-Shirt and khaki shorts, white shoes, and white socks. Ladies: Khaki shorts must be Bermuda style or at the knees. The khaki shorts cannot have any holes or tears in them.

The fall marching uniform consists of:

- Shako hat, jackets pants, gloves, black socks, and Glide Black Marching Band Shoes, ordered from the Vanlue Music Boosters.

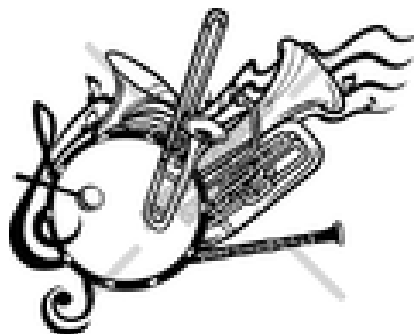
The concert uniform consists of formal clothing which follows the school dress code policy. No jeans, sweats, t-shirts, or tennis shoes.

The pep band uniform consists of:

- School appropriate clothes as per the student handbook

UNIFORM REGULATIONS:

1. The uniform is to be worn (correctly) at all times unless otherwise directed.
2. The uniform will be wrinkle free and properly altered.
3. Do not wear large jewelry pieces while in uniform.
4. Shorts, sweats, or long underwear may be worn under the uniform in cold weather. No jeans or long pants are to be worn under the uniform. No clothing should show from underneath.
5. Shoes must be polished and mud-free. Gloves must be clean for every performance. Hair must be inside of the hat and not touching the collar. Students with long hair should plan on wearing it in a braid, and pinning it up for performances. **Any infraction will result in dismissal from performance thus lowering your grade.**



VII. Music Boosters

The Vanlue Music Boosters have done much over the years to provide a great deal of assistance to our program. Meetings will be held on a regular basis in the band room. Parents of all students in the band program are automatically considered members. However, membership is open to any interested persons. Parents are encouraged to attend as many meetings as possible. Your opinions and help are genuinely needed.

Some of the responsibilities of the booster organization include:

1. Purchasing and maintaining uniforms for the band and choir and their various performing groups.
2. Purchasing music, instruments, and supplies in the event the school budget is insufficient to meet the needs of these groups.
3. Organizing and funding social and recreational activities for the band and choir students.
4. Providing chaperones for trips and activities.
5. Organizing various fund raising projects to provide monies for the above activities.

VIII. Students' Financial Obligations

A. Uniform Fee

All students are required to pay a uniform fee at the beginning of each year. The current fee is \$10.00.

B. Uniform Accessories

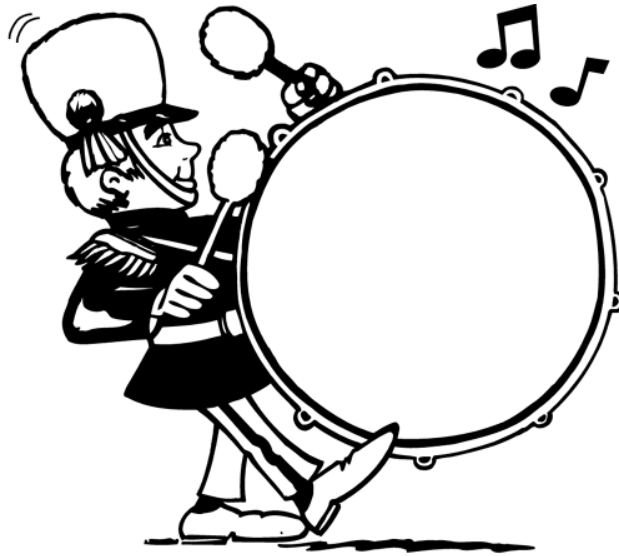
Students will purchase gloves for marching band at app. \$3.00 per pair. Students will also purchase a pair of black marching shoes as designated by the director and ordered from the Vanlue Music Boosters. The students will wear these shoes at all marching performances.

C. School Owned Instruments

A number of students use school owned instruments. There will be a \$20.00 fee for a full year (\$10.00 for half a year.) to use these instruments. Instruments will be issued to the student in working order. The student is responsible for the repair and upkeep of these instruments. Any damage in excess of normal "wear and tear" on these instruments will be assessed to the student. Each year the student will sign a contract for any school owned instruments. The contract form is at the end of this handbook and needs to be filled out and turned in by

D. Miscellaneous Fees:

Students are responsible for purchasing any instrument-specific materials (ex.: reeds, slide oil, drumsticks, valve oil, etc.). These are available from the director or can be purchased through local music stores.



IX. BAND AWARDS

Throughout the year, band members are able to earn a number of awards through their participation in various band activities.

A. Marching Season Awards

Marching Band Concert

After the football season, a concert featuring the highlights of the halftime shows will be presented. During this concert the directors will present the following awards:

The 8 to 5 Award – Presented to the student who best represents the Vanlue Band tradition, demonstrating outstanding leadership, enthusiasm, pride, and marching skill.

The MVP Award – Presented to the most valuable player in the marching band.

The Section Leader of the Year Award – Presented to the section leader who has shown the most dedication and leadership in his or her section.

The Most Improved Award – Presented to the most improved marcher/player.

B. Solo and Ensemble Awards

These awards, distributed by the Ohio Music Education Association, can be earned by students receiving a I or II rating on their solo or ensemble performed at the district solo and ensemble contest.

C. Final Awards

These awards are presented at the spring banquet.

Senior Awards – Presented to all senior band members in appreciation of their contribution to the Vanlue Band program.

John Philip Sousa Award - Presented to one outstanding senior band member who has been in band all four years of high school. The recipient of this award will receive a certificate and his/her name engraved on a plaque.

Band Letter – Awarded to any band member successfully completing their 1st year of High School Band. A service bar will be given out for all the following years.

Pep Band Numbers - Awarded to any band member who participates for the first time in pep band and misses no more than 2 scheduled games. Service pins will be given out for all other years of participation.



Vanlue Band Instrument Rental Contract

Name: _____

Instrument/Brand: _____

Serial #: _____

Date Issued: _____ Condition: _____

Date Returned: _____ Condition: _____

_____ agrees to care for the issued instrument and to perform regular cleaning and care whenever needed. The rate for instrument rental will be \$10.00/half year OR \$20.00/year. The instrument will be issued in playing order. The issuee will be responsible for any professional repair that is necessary for the upkeep of the instrument.

I fully understand the rental agreement as stated above.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Director Signature: _____ Date: _____

X. CONTRACT FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE VANLUE HIGH SCHOOL BAND

I hereby affirm that I have read and thoroughly understand the Vanlue High School Band Handbook. I further affirm that I will abide by the rules, regulations, and intent of said handbook, and understand the penalties for not doing so. I understand that an unexcused absence from a rehearsal or performance will seriously affect my grade and could lead to expulsion from band. I have had all of my questions and concerns about the content of this handbook answered and will do my best to live up to the intent of this contract.

Student Signature _____ **Date** _____

I/We have read the Vanlue High School Band Handbook and have discussed it with our child. I/We will do our best to encourage him/her to abide by the rules and regulations of the band as expressed in the band handbook. I/We also understand the penalties that will be exacted if the student(s) does not abide by the handbook regulations.

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____ **Date** _____