

# VICKSBURG WARREN BEGINNER BAND HANDBOOK

2016-2017

Warren Central Intermediate

Beechwood Elementary

Redwood Elementary

Bovina Elementary

Vicksburg Intermediate School

Warrenton Elementary

South Park Elementary

Bowmar Elementary

## Warren Central Directors

*Mr. Alan Arendale, Band Director*

*Assistant Directors:*

*Mrs. Melynn Arendale*

*Mr. Andrew Bonner*

*Mrs. Jessica Bonner*

*Mr. Jace McMullin*

*Mr. Nathan Ball*

## Vicksburg Directors

*Mr. Jonathan Nelson, Band Director*

*Assistant Directors:*

*Mr. Terry Steed*

*Mrs. Katie Baugher*

*Mr. Johnny Johnson*

*Mr. Cody McElwain*

*Mr. Ra'Shaude Kenney*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

We would like to thank the Administration Vicksburg-Warren School District for their continued support and cooperation. We would also like to thank the parents and community. Without your efforts, this program would not succeed.

## **PHILOSOPHY**

The philosophy of the instrumental music education program is to develop each student to the extent of his/her fullest potential, musically and intellectually. Though individual, as well as ensemble rehearsal and performance, the student will develop an understanding and appreciation of music of various styles. The program desires to reach as many students as possible. Ultimately, the program will develop within each student the desire to support music through continued involvement whether within a performing group, independent study, or lifelong enjoyment. An additional benefit of this involvement will give students the opportunity to reach their potential as adult citizens of the world.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this handbook is to provide a convenient reference for students, parents, administrators, and directors who have questions concerning any aspect of the band program at Vicksburg Warren elementary schools. We have made an honest effort to include and explain every possible facet of the band program.

## **BEGINNER BAND OBJECTIVES**

The Vicksburg Warren Band Programs form an integral part of school life. It is one of the largest and most active voluntary student organizations and its members form an active, cosmopolitan group. The primary objectives of the band program are as follows:

1. Cultural—To foster the continued development of music appreciation and understanding through the study and performance of quality music.
2. Educational—To develop interested listeners, provide a well-rounded musical education, and prepare students for musical activities for a lifetime.
3. Service—To lend a colorful atmosphere to certain school and community affairs while promoting and enhancing the dignity and reputation of Vicksburg Warren schools at all appearances.
4. Citizenship—to develop a student's ability to function as a responsible member of the group, to enhance the student's ability to interact with others in a positive manner, and to develop the ability to function as a responsible member of the community.
5. Recreational—to provide all students with the opportunity for worthy use of leisure time, an emotional outlet, and good social experiences.

## **INSTRUMENT REQUIREMENTS**

Certain brands of instruments are inferior and thus would be detrimental to the student and the band. Different brands make pitch and tone compromises in different ways. Since this is an area in which we are judged at contests and competitions, matched brands are necessary. Please only purchase an instrument that is recommended or approved by a Vicksburg Warren band director.

## **INSTRUMENT UPGRADE**

Please keep in mind that when a student reaches the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade, it is expected that they upgrade to a recommended top- or mid-line instrument. It is beneficial to purchase them as early as the end of 7<sup>th</sup>-grade. Maintaining a beginner level instrument after the first 2 years of band will hinder your child's progress. We will provide options to an affordable plan for you to make this upgrade at the appropriate time so that students can continue to achieve their potential. Before purchasing a top or mid-line instrument, the parent and student should consult the director to purchase the best possible instrument for the best price.

## **GRADING SYSTEM**

Students will be graded on the following: chair-placement/playing tests, written music theory tests, attending performances, and having all required materials in class. Required materials include instrument, band book and binder, pencil, and any accessories needed to play an instrument. Students are expected to practice regularly for their own benefit as well as to contribute to the band's success. Students learn more effectively and enjoy band more when they practice at least 20 minutes daily. In order to be promoted to 7th-grade band, students must finish the 6th-grade year with at least a 70 average for the SECOND semester.

If a student fails band for the year or for the second semester, it is the option of the Band Directors to refuse continuation in band. Parents will be given ample notice to remedy this before it becomes a major problem.

## **GENERAL RULES AND POLICIES**

1. Band students are expected to go to band every day during activity time. Do not go to another activity without permission from your band director.
2. Students should follow all instructions given them by their directors promptly and with a good attitude.
3. Students are to have their instrument and music in class EVERY day, and should take their instruments home every afternoon. Failure to do either of these things will result in punish work and a low daily grade.
4. DO NOT TOUCH another student's instrument. Do not allow another student to touch your instrument. Instruments are expensive and fragile. Please be responsible for protecting your instrument.
5. No gum, candy, cough drops, or other objects in your mouth. These items are a choking hazard, and promote the growth of mildew, fungus, and bacteria in your instrument.

6. If a band student decides to drop out of band, he or she will take an F for the year, and will not be allowed to reenter a Vicksburg Warren band program again.

### **CLASSROOM PROCEDURES**

Rehearsal time is valuable and every moment must be used efficiently. The following rules are used by all groups:

1. Upon entering the rehearsal hall, quickly and efficiently get your instrument, music, and equipment and go directly to your seat. Be ready for class before your teacher begins the lesson. If your director has a bell ringer for class, begin work on it immediately when you get to your seat.
2. Warm-up will be done as a group. Do not play out of turn. This applies at all times!
3. Students are expected to make noticeable improvements daily. *This cannot be accomplished without outside practice and effort.*
4. At the end of rehearsal, each student is to put away his/her own instrument, equipment, and music. No items should be left out of place.

### **EXPECTATIONS**

1. Follow classroom rules.
2. Come to class with a good attitude, ready to learn. Leave all other drama outside!
3. Practice 15 to 30 minutes a day.
4. Be respectful of everyone (space, words, and action).
5. Notify director of problems before or after class—not during.
6. Listen to all instructions before asking questions.
7. Respond appropriately.

### **PARENT EXPECTATIONS**

1. Ensure your child has a quality instrument.
2. Ensure your child has reeds, oils, sticks, etc.
3. Ensure your child practices 15-30 minutes a day.

## **PROCEDURES FOR DISRUPTIONS**

- First time: Student will receive warning
- Second time: Parent contacted.
- Third time: Office Referral

Band students are expected to display leadership qualities and set a good example for all Vicksburg Warren students. **Students who get repeated office referrals during band class and/or band functions (concerts, trips, etc.) are subject to immediate removal from band.** Everyone can be a positive leader!

All students are expected to participate daily. Alternative assignments will be given to those who forget to bring their instrument or music from home. Points will also be deducted from that rehearsal grade if student has left their instrument at home.

## **OTHER EXPECTATIONS**

Class time needs to be productive. Due to the number of students in each rehearsal, coupled with the fact that you have instruments in-hand, it is easy for the noise level to get out of control. When the conductor stops during rehearsal, students should remain quiet in order to hear the instructions. This means no talking, whispering, singing, humming, yelling, or grunting. **Productive rehearsals mean higher performance levels! P.R.I.D.E.!**

## **EQUIPMENT AND MUSIC**

Each student is responsible for the welfare of any and all equipment, music, etc. issued to them. Any music or equipment lost or damaged must be replaced or paid for by the student. Students should keep up with all music. Students who do not have proper music will have points deducted from that day's rehearsal grade.

## **INSTRUMENT REPAIRS (school-owned instruments)**

Instruments owned by the Vicksburg-Warren School District include those that are not normally purchased by individuals (i.e., tubas and other expensive "specialty" type instruments). These instruments are purchased through the booster club or district funds, and are signed out to individual students (or may be shared depending on the number of students vs. instruments owned) for use during the year. Funds for the regular maintenance of the instruments are also currently provided through the school district.

If a school-owned instrument becomes damaged, please DO NOT attempt to repair the instrument yourself or take the instrument directly to the shop. Please show a band director the damage. Many times a band director can repair an instrument. If not, the band director will send the instrument to the repair shop at Mississippi Music. Students with school-owned instruments will be held financially responsible for damage or loss of the instrument, instrument case, and accessories caused by negligence of the student. The school district will be responsible for normal maintenance of the instrument and case such as the replacement of worn out pads, springs, and/or worn out latches and clasps.

### **INSTRUMENT REPAIR INFORMATION (personal instruments)**

If your instrument becomes damaged and/or will not play, notify a director immediately. If he/she can't repair it quickly, you may take home an instrument repair request that must be filled-out and signed by you and your parent. Return this and the instrument the next day and we will send it to the shop for you on the day the music store representative comes. The instruments are usually returned from the shop in about a week. When the instrument returns from the shop, you will be contacted by a director and given the repair ticket. You may pay for it at that point or the next day. You will not receive your instrument until you pay the repair bill. After two days, you will lose 5 points from your participation grade for each day you do not pay. To avoid losing points, please see a director *in advance* of this if you need to work out a special arrangement.

You may take the instrument to the repair shop yourself if you choose. We recommend Mississippi Music Company. This is the only full service shop in central Mississippi. Upon getting your instrument back from the shop, you must show the director your receipt that reflects the dates you didn't have your instrument in class. Otherwise, you will be given Zeros for those rehearsals. Be prepared to have graded, written work if your instrument is in the shop on a rehearsal day.

### **BAND FEES**

The Vicksburg Warren Band program is fortunate to have the financial support of the school district; however, students are expected to cover certain costs, since band is not only an academic class, but also an extracurricular activity. Each year a band fee will be assessed to cover materials such as an official band shirt, band method book, notebook, transparent notebook pages, or judge's fees. Paying this fee is a requirement of all band members. Any student unable to pay by the due day is asked to speak with the director to make payment arrangements. Band materials will not be issued until a student has paid enough fees to cover the materials.

### **DAILY SUPPLIES:**

Flute – Tuning Rod, cleaning cloth

Oboe—Minimum of 3 acceptable reeds, cleaning cloth, water container

Clarinet – Correct brand mouthpiece, mouthpiece guard, ligature, cork grease, swab, minimum of 3 acceptable reeds\*

Saxophone – Correct brand mouthpiece, neck strap, mouthpiece guard, cork grease, swab, minimum of 3 acceptable reed

French Horn – Mouthpiece, rotary oil, slide grease, polishing cloth,

Trumpet – Mouthpiece, valve oil, slide grease, polishing cloth, cleaning kit

Trombone - Slide oil or cream, slide grease, polishing cloth, spray bottle, cleaning kit

Baritone/Euphonium/Tuba –Mouthpiece, valve oil, slide grease, polishing cloth, cleaning brushes

Percussion – Percussion bag with accessories (mallets, drum, bell set). *Various mallets, sticks, and other pertinent equipment will be required throughout the student’s band career.*

### **PARTICIPATION IN CONCERTS AND BAND NIGHT**

During the school year, beginner band students will participate in public performances, including but not limited to a Christmas concert and a final spring concert at the end of the year. *Participation in all public performances is required of all beginner band students.* Furthermore, all students should wear the appropriate attire for each performance. It is important for all performing groups to represent the school in a unified, professional way. Band students receive a test grade for participation in each public performance.

### **CONCERT AUDIENCE ETIQUETTE**

- Applause—always appreciated. Please hold your applause between movements from the same selection. If in doubt, wait for the conductor’s hands to go down. It is inappropriate to applaud a national anthem or a school’s alma mater at a formal concert. “Hollerin,” “hootin’,” and “whistlin’,” are inappropriate at a formal concert.
- Walk around only during set changes or intermission.
- Talking and whispering--NEVER when anyone is performing. Others want to hear. The band members want to be heard.
- Small children are always welcome. If the child becomes fretful, feel free at anytime (even in the middle of a song) to slip out of the concert until the episode is over.
- Student seating—students have been asked to sit in an assigned area.
- Gentlemen’s hats should be removed.
- Printed Programs—if you do not wish to keep your printed program, please deposit it in the nearest trash can.
- Behavior—Parents, please help monitor student behavior so that this will be a pleasant evening for all. You may also report any problems to the director immediately after the concert.
- Turn off cell phones, pagers, and alarm watches, please. Thanks for your consideration!

THANK YOU for taking the time to study this band handbook. You’ll be glad you did!!

The directors are glad you’re in the band this year. It is extremely hard work, but the rewards will be great with effort on your part. Thank you for all you will do! We are already proud of you!!!

**Please keep this handbook in a secure place so you can refer to it when necessary. It is your friend! Use it as a guide throughout your band year!**

Please sign and return this page to your band director to earn a reward. This signifies student and parent has read and understands the band handbook, and agrees to abide by the responsibilities, obligations, and policies of Vicksburg Warren Bands. Failure to return this agreement does not excuse any student from adhering to the rules and procedures of the Vicksburg Warren Band Programs.

Student first and last name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



