

Vicksburg Warren School District

*Junior High
Band Handbook*

2016-2017

Mr. Chad Shealy, Superintendent, Vicksburg Warren School District

Mr. LeAndrew Drake, Principal, Vicksburg Junior High

Dr. Cedric Magee, Principal, Warren Central Junior High

Mr. Jason McKellar, Principal, Scholastic Academy

Director of Bands, Vicksburg

Mr. Jonathan Nelson

Assistant Band Directors

Mrs. Kathryn Baugher

Mr. Johnny Johnson

Mr. RaShaude Kenney

Mr. Cody McElwain

Mr. Terry Steed

Vicksburg Junior High Office Number

601-636-1966

Director of Bands, Warren Central

Mr. Alan Arendale

Assistant Band Directors

Mrs. Melynn Arendale

Mr. Andrew Bonner

Mrs. Jessica Bonner

Mr. Jace McMullin

Mr. Nathan Ball

Warren Central Junior High Office Number

601-638-3981

Purpose

To Provide a convenient reference for students, parents, administrators, and directors who have questions concerning any aspect of the junior high band programs for the Vicksburg Warren School District.

Preface

Any questions not answered in this booklet should be addressed to the band directors. Students and parents need to read this handbook carefully, sign, and return the back pages to the band directors.

School rules and policies are in force at all times a student is directly or indirectly involved in any activity sponsored by or in the name of the Vicksburg Warren School District. School policy shall have priority over band policy in the event of any policy conflict. When a student becomes a member of the band, he/she agrees to abide by all rules and regulations stated in the handbook. If he/she does not abide by these rules and causes themselves to be dismissed from the band, or is he/she drops band of their own accord, he/she immediately loses all rights and privileges thereof. Moreover, he/she cannot be readmitted into the band program at a later date without the director's consent.

The band directors shall have authority to suspend or amend any band policy at any time deemed necessary in the best interest of the overall band program.

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.

Band Objectives

Both the Vicksburg Band and Warren Central 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:

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 and discriminating listeners, provide a well-rounded musical education and prepare students for musical activities beyond high school.
3. **Service-** To lend color and atmosphere to certain school and community affairs while promoting and enhancing the dignity and reputation of the Vicksburg Warren School District at all appearances.
4. **Citizenship-** To develop the 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.

Entrance Requirements

In order to participate in the junior high band programs of the Vicksburg Warren School District, a student must have completed their sixth grade year of band with a 70 or above for the second semester. A student who has not completed sixth grade band or was not a member of the band the year prior may not be allowed to join the junior high band without the consent of the band director.

If a student has several documented behavioral issues from a year prior, it is the director's decision to suspend any further participation in the junior high band program for the following year.

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.

As a student's playing abilities increase, so too should the quality of the instrument the student is playing. It is recommended that by the student's eighth or ninth grade year that they step up in quality to a middle line or upper line instrument. Maintaining a beginner level instrument after the first two years of band will hinder your child's progress. We will help to provide 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 in order to purchase the best possible instrument for the best price.

School-Owned Instruments

Some instruments are not necessary for the parent to purchase, and the school will provide them after signing them out to the student. Students who play a school owned instrument may be obligated to purchase their own mouthpiece as one may not be provided by the directors.

Students playing the following instruments will be assigned a school-owned instrument:

Oboe	French Horn
Bassoon	Baritone
Bass Clarinet	Tuba
Contra Bass Clarinet	Sousaphone
Tenor Saxophone	
Baritone Saxophone	

If these instruments are lost or purposefully broken, you may be held responsible for repair/replacement. One way to avoid damage is to not allow anyone else to touch your instrument!

Instrument Repair

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 form that must be filled-out and signed by your parent. By signing this form you are authorizing the shop to make up to \$80.00 worth of repairs to the instrument. If the repair is to cost anymore the shop will call the number listed on the form and request permission before repairing the instrument. ***You are responsible for the cost of repairs!*** 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. Please see a director in advance of this if you need to work out a special arrangement, to avoid losing points.

You may take the instrument to the repair shop yourself if you choose. We only recommend Mississippi Music Company. 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 failing grades for those rehearsals. Be prepared to have graded, written work if your instrument is in the shop.

School-Owned Instruments

PLEASE DO NOT take any school-owned instrument to the shop yourself. Tell a director if there is a problem and we will take it from there. If the instrument is taken for repair without the knowledge of the directors, then the family whose name appears on the sign-out form will be responsible for paying the full cost of the work.

Music stores are aware of these policies and will contact us to verify repairs that are not accompanied with a request form from the directors.

Forgetting Instruments/ No Instruments

Students will not be allowed to sit in class without his/her instrument. Students who forget their instrument at home will be given an assignment to complete by the end of the class period. Failure to do so will result in a possible write-up, written punishment work, or phone call home. Students who do not have an instrument and have not consulted with a band director on ways to obtain one are subject to removal from the junior high band program.

Dues

Both Vicksburg Junior High and Warren Central Junior High Bands are fortunate to have financial support from the district; however, students are expected to cover certain costs, since band is not only an academic class but an extracurricular class as well. Each year a band fee will be assessed to cover many of the following: an official band shirt, band method book, binder, sheet protectors, and a lyre/flip folder for eighth graders. Any item that is lost or stolen is expected to be replaced at the student's expense. Paying this fee is mandatory for all members. Any student unable to pay by the due date is asked to speak with the director to make payment arrangements. Band is a team activity and all members are expected to contribute. A fee sheet will be given out each year that states the total amount of the dues and what they are covering. Scholarships/District Hardship waivers are available to deserving families. Please contact a band director for questions concerning this.

Equipment and Music

Students are responsible for the welfare of any and all equipment, music, uniforms, etc. issued to them. Any music or equipment lost or damaged must be replaced or paid for by the student.

Students are assigned a special shelf or area for their instrument or equipment. Always leave them only in the area assigned for them. Items left in inappropriate areas will be collected and consequences will be given.

Keep up with your music! If you were absent and didn't receive a piece of music, let the Director or Music Librarian know when your excused slip has been signed. You may have points deducted from grades if you do not have all of your materials for the day.

Tardiness

Primarily, students will be escorted as a group to the band hall daily. In the event that a student comes to band after the tardy bell and/or not with the escorted group, they will be given a 'tardy.' When students are tardy they may be asked to do one of the following:

1. Physical exercise of 20 push-ups or similar exercise.
2. Copy a 1-page handwritten assignment that is due the next school day.

These are in addition to the school district's tardy policy stated in the student handbook. The purpose of this policy is to instill punctuality in the students. The purpose for physical activity is to prevent time-consuming paperwork for students, taking away from study/practice time.

Discipline Policies

Students are expected to obey all classroom rules and procedures that are issued to them at the start and during the school year. Students who fail to adhere to the rules set forth by the band directors and the Vicksburg Warren School District are subject to doing physical exercise of 20 push-ups or related exercise.

Consistent violation of the rules will result in the following actions being taken:

1. Warning/Written Punishment Work/Possible Phone Call
2. A.S.D and a Phone Call Home to help rectify behavioral issues
3. Conference with the band directors, administrator, and a parent. A behavior Contract may be issued and implemented during this time and will remain intact until the end of the school year.
4. Office Referral and/or Removal from the Band Program.

All Punishment work must be handwritten and turned in the next school day. Punishment work is to be signed by the parent/guardian and will be kept on file in the Band Office.

Dismissal from the Band Program

If at any point during the course of the school, it becomes necessary, then a student may be dismissed from the Junior High Band Program. Reasons for dismissal will almost always involve an extreme case where the student has proven a danger or liability to those around them or the Vicksburg Warren School District itself. Reasons for Dismissal Include:

- **Theft:** Theft of any personal or school owned item will absolutely not be tolerated in either the Vicksburg or Warren Central Band Programs. If a student is caught stealing any instruments, money, or any other valuable item, then a director will request for immediate dismissal from the band program.
- **Fighting:** We ask that all of our students in the band not participate in fighting in any way. Should a fight break out between students during the middle of a band rehearsal or band related function then it is at the director's discretion to request dismissal from the band program.
- **Alcohol/Drug Use:** Any student found in the possession or consumption of Alcohol and/or drugs will immediately be removed from the band and reported to administration and police. All actions following this violation will follow the Vicksburg Warren School District Policy Handbook.
- **Sexual Misconduct:** Any form of sexual harassment or sexual misconduct will not be tolerated in the band. Any student found engaging in any such activity shall be removed from the band and reported to the office for further disciplinary action.

Any Student that is removed from the band program may not be allowed to re-enter without consent of the Band Director.

Grades

Band is more than just an extracurricular activity. Both parents and students should be aware that band is also another class just like any other, and students will receive grades just as they would in any other class. Students will be given grades on the following:

Materials: Students will be given a material grade each day. This helps the directors to ensure that the students are always prepared with the necessary supplies for the day.

Test Grades: These grades will be taken from various forms of testing. Written tests may be given to assess the student's progress in band throughout the year. Playing tests will be issued to the students during the week.

Quizzes: Students may be quizzed on any item that has been taught from the previous day's lesson. These quizzes may include items such as clapping rhythms, playing a scale, playing a line from their book, a terminology quiz, etc. In order for students to be better prepared for their quizzes, it is recommended that they practice individually at home.

Performance Grades: All performances are ***MANDATORY!*** Failure to be at a scheduled performance will result in a failing test grade. Directors will make exceptions for missed performances only in extreme circumstances. Students who are going to miss a performance must let the director know prior to the performance date.

Performances will be graded as follows:

<i>Correct Dress and staying for the entire performance</i>	<i>100%</i>
<i>In attendance, but with incorrect dress (not being allowed to perform)</i>	<i>65%</i>
<i>Performing and Leaving early:</i>	<i>65%</i>

Students are given plenty of opportunities to make up missed or failed work. Because of this, any student who has an average below 70 for the year and/or the second semester will not be allowed to rejoin band for the next year. Parents will be given ample notice to help remedy this problem before it occurs.

Any student who is retained in the same grade for a year will not be allowed to rejoin the band the next year. This is also due to MHSAA (Mississippi High School Activities Association) Eligibility rules. Should any student be in danger of failing a grade we ask that they find the appropriate help needed so that they can remain a part of our band program.

Promotion to the High School Band

Eighth Grade Students who wish to join the High School Marching and Concert Bands their freshman year may be asked to participate in a Spring Audition and marching audition. If a student does not participate in the spring audition then it is at the directors' discretion to refuse entrance into the high school band program. ***Students with an average lower than 70 for the year and/or the second semester will not be allowed to join the high school band.***

Charms Office Assistant

Charms Office Assistant is an online resource that helps the directors to stay in contact with both parents and students. This is an online resource that will be beneficial in helping to keep parents up-to-date on all of their children's essential band information. Functions of this website include the ability to keep up with your student's grade and assignments for band, the ability to see how much your child may owe in band dues, the ability to print lost worksheets, homework, or even a handbook, and many other helpful features. Charms is **Free-of-Charge** and as such we hope that you will utilize it to its full potential.

Band Clinics

Band Clinics are not only educational, but they are also great fun. They give students an opportunity to demonstrate and improve their musical skills while learning from other well-respected directors. This is an opportunity that all students need to seek out. They are considered excused absences, so students will need to make up all work missed in other classes.

The directors will post a list of possible clinics, and any student interested in them may sign up. They directors may choose to audition students before sending their final list to the clinics. As these are extra opportunities, however, certain fees may apply. The directors will make known the amount the student owes well before time for the clinic. Please keep this in mind before signing up.

Fund Raising

The Band Program may sponsor one or two fundraisers during the school year. It is not a requirement that students participate, but it is encouraged, since funds are used to cover band expenses such as travel or equipment needs.

Jonathan Nelson
Band Director
Vicksburg

Alan Arendale
Band Director
Warren Central

Parent/Student Agreement

I have received a copy of the 2016-2017 Vicksburg Warren School District Junior High School Band Handbook. I have read it, and I FULLY UNDERSTAND all the regulations listed within its pages. I also understand any and all penalties listed within.

