

VOLCANO VISTA HIGH SCHOOL

BAND HANDBOOK

2015-2016

GO HAWKS!

*If a composer could say what he had to say in words he would not bother trying to say it
in music.*

– Gustav Mahler

Please print & keep this handbook in a safe place! Most questions you may have throughout the year can be answered by referring to the band handbook.

HANDBOOK OBJECTIVES

- To provide a general foundation of the policies and procedures used by the Volcano Vista Band Program.
- To effectively communicate to parents and students who the director is, what the director expects, and the virtues of band membership.
- To provide an organizational framework for the students, parents and administration.
- To provide a contract between parents, students, and the director to ensure that obligations as well as expectations, policies, and procedures are met.

If there are any questions about the contents of this packet, please contact me (Blakey@aps.edu) to receive clarification. ***Great communication is the key to the success of any organization.*** It can also keep a simple misunderstanding from growing into a major issue.

In addition to this handbook, detailed information can be found on our website. **Please bookmark and check the band website regularly (www.vvhsband.org) for up to date information.**

Why should you join band?

That is a great question. It's important for everyone to understand my perspective and mission. Music has always been a big part of my life. My participation in band has in many ways shaped me into the person I am today. I know how powerful music and the arts can be to a child's well-being and growth. Essentially, I have witnessed how music can lead to an individual's success both in and out of the classroom. Please understand I expect students to be people of great character first and hard working, amazing musicians second. You have my pledge to do whatever it takes to allow these students to become the best people, students and musicians of which they are capable.

MR. BLAKEY'S PERSONAL MISSION STATEMENT

To the best of my ability I will provide an environment in which music is utilized as the primary medium to develop strong character, skilled musicianship, positive life lessons, life changing social experiences and a lifelong love of music participation.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to one of the most exciting and rewarding experiences in which you can be a part—**THE BAND!** I am honored to be your band director here at Volcano Vista and I am excited to work with all of you as together we experience all the wonderful things band has to offer.

We are very fortunate in the U.S. to have music as an important and worthwhile academic content standard. Music is so important to all of us in our daily lives whether listening to your favorite tune on the radio or even pursuing a career in the arts. The benefits of children being involved in music are documented and proven year after year. Band students generally have better grades and higher standardized test scores than the general student population, and are viewed by faculty and administration as leaders among Volcano Vista students. Parents, it is important for you to understand how vital participation in band can be, even when the students might not be able to see the benefits further down the road. Concerning band...make sure your kids make a serious attempt, follow through, and finish what they start! You'll be happy you did. Your child needs to know that you think what they do is important.

The 2015-2016 school year is going to be great! This year the marching band will perform the show Red Riding Hood. The Hawk Marching Band will compete at Pageant of Bands, Zia Marching Fiesta, and Tournament of Bands competitions again this year. We will have many opportunities for outstanding performances as we show the Westside community and the whole city of Albuquerque how exceptional the students and parents of Volcano Vista High School can be. The Jazz band will perform at the UNM and ABQ Jazz Festivals in 2015 and the Concert Band and Wind Ensemble will be performing at District festival and State Contest, respectively. Previously, the Jazz Band received all superior ratings at festivals as well as the Concert Band and Wind Ensemble. We hope to continue this tradition of excellence!

As a product of an APS music program I look forward to the experiences and challenges ahead of me. I hope to make all of your experiences with the Volcano Vista Band memorable, musical, and rewarding. Let's have a great 2015- 2016 school year!

Go Hawks!

Paul Blakey

➤ **Why Do We Do This?**

Being in the band is a highly rewarding activity, not only for the students, but also for the parents who are actively involved. No other school organization offers such a wonderful chance for a parent to participate with their child in a school activity. The “life lessons” learned through the band will benefit each student throughout his or her entire life. Working as a group to reach goals, striving to be the best you can be, and accepting responsibility for your actions and their logical consequences are only a few of the benefits of band participation. Band students generally have better grades and higher standardized test scores than the general student population, and are viewed by faculty and administration as leaders among students. The main reason students drop out of college is that they don’t show up for classes—in band, “showing up” is ingrained in students and it becomes a lifelong habit.

Support for any Fine Arts program can’t always be the highest priority in a school district that is strapped for funds. We are very grateful to The Albuquerque Public School District (“APS”) for their support in many ways, as they provide outstanding facilities for our use, bus transportation for football games, large instruments and limited large instrument repairs. APS also replaces the band uniforms every eight years.

Parents should realize that ALL other expenses of operating the band must be met by funds paid by the students or parents themselves or funds raised through other activities. The Band Boosters anticipate that the Band Dues for 2015-2016 will be **\$375 per student** plus the costs of any trips (besides TOB) the band takes. The Band Dues or operating budget is determined (among other things) by how many students enroll in Band and Colorguard in the fall.

➤ **Where Does This Money Come From?**

1. Payment of \$350 to VVHS Band Boosters* (Checks only please)

- a. \$150 due August 1, 2015
- b. \$100 due September 1, 2015
- c. \$50 due September 15, 2015 (This is the deposit for TOB [Tournament of Bands] trip to Las Cruces)
- d. \$75 due October 1, 2015 (This is the last dues payment and balance of TOB payment)

2. Payment of \$75.00 to VVHS Band* (Checks only please)

- a. \$75 due November 1, 2015

**Families with multiple students in the program receive a discount. Please see the booster treasurer or Mr. Blakey for details.*

3. Fundraisers VVHS Band Boosters provide quality fund-raising opportunities for the students throughout the year. Students have an opportunity to raise funds through multiple means, including, but not limited to the sale of Pageant of Bands Ad Sales, Car Washes, Silent Auctions and various merchandise selling opportunities. Each of these fundraising activities, as you can imagine, require numerous volunteers to organize and carry out.

In addition, there are numerous general fund events, such as playing at UNM volleyball games, March-A-Thons, and other community events. Band fundraisers serve to both defray student costs and provide the band with the tools it needs to keep the program running. Some fundraisers provide income to student accounts, while others support the general fund. This band operates on talent, energy, enthusiasm, and volunteer power. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Participation in band fundraisers will help each student to develop life skills such as working with adults on a peer basis, contributing to the welfare of the group while increasing the student's individual worth and skills, and taking responsibility for costs of his/her own activities. **Participation by EVERY STUDENT AND HIS/HER PARENTS is essential to ensuring a successful band program and the meeting of budget needs.**

➤ **How Is The Band Dues Used?**

Performance items constitute the largest group of expenses, including repair and cleaning of band uniforms, supplies for chaperones, bus supplies, signs and decorations, Marching and Colorguard drill writer's fees and drum book fees, equipment rental, equipment replacement/repair, colorguard props, music, food and beverages for games, contests, concerts/other events, rental trucks to transport "pit" percussion/colorguard equipment, props and large instruments to and from performances and competitions, and many other performance related expenses.

Band room equipment and supplies are also expensive for needs such as sound and computer equipment, instrument repairs, storage building rentals, copy machine and replacements not covered by APS.

Contest entry fees for all Area and State Competitions, All-Region tryouts, UNM Day of Percussion, Guard and Winter Guard Competitions, NMSU Tournament of Bands in Las Cruces, Pageant of Bands and Zia Marching Contests, and all Concert and Jazz Band festivals.

Specialized Instruction Education and Clinic Instructors for the band are a heavy expense. These include Marching Band/Drum

Line/Colorguard/Brass/Woodwind instructors/clinicians, tuition for the Drum Majors and Colorguard captains to attend an instructional camp each summer, and other materials, supplies and professional Leadership Workshops for all Student Band Officers, Section Leaders and Drum Majors.

➤ **Are there any costs not included in my band fee? Uniform Expenses**

The purchase of gloves (\$3/each – two pair needed), shoes (\$40), pep band folder, warm-ups (\$55), band t-shirt (\$5), long black socks, black spandex shorts, black bow tie and tuxedo shirt (\$15-25) are mandatory for first year and new band students and is not included in the band assessment.

A replacement band t-shirt should be purchased when the old one is worn out, stained, or dingy. An extra band shirt is helpful. Replacement marching shoes should be purchased when the old ones are worn out or no longer fit. If marching shoes are ordered after band camp, shipping costs will apply. Colorguard shoes are purchased individually.

Trip Expenses

The Marching Band will go to Las Cruces for the Tournament of Bands (TOB) competition in Las Cruces on November 7, 2015. The cost of the TOB competition is included in the \$375 band assessment.

During spring semester, Color/Winter Guard usually participates in two out-of-town competitions. Each trip is approximately \$150 to \$175 per student. These fees are NOT included in the \$375 band assessment.

Any Jazz Band or Spring Concert Band trips will incur fees separate from the \$375 band assessment. Though trips are optional, it is expected that all eligible band students will participate. **You must participate in the District VII Large Group Music Performance Assessment & Festival in order to go on the Spring Trip.**

The VVHS Band Program has no hidden fees or expenses. When your student boards the bus for a trip out of town, all expenses such as meals, lodging and transportation are covered. Occasionally you may be asked to provide a sack lunch for your student. Students must provide personal spending money for snacks or souvenirs.

There are numerous fundraising opportunities throughout the year to help cover both student and band expenses. We ***strongly recommend*** that your ***student participate in the fundraising*** opportunities early on, and that you ***make regular payments*** to your student's account so you won't be faced with a large bill at the time of the trips. It is much better to plan ahead than be caught unprepared.

MARCHING BAND

Marching Band is a fun and exciting opportunity for the band to perform at football games and compete against the best bands from the state in Pageant of Bands, Zia and Tournament of Bands. The highest quality band is comprised of all the students working together as a well-trained team. Students are encouraged to keep their grades up so they can play and make the group sound its absolute best. All band members are expected to participate in the tournaments and attend the football games. It is a large commitment and hard work - more than that, though, it is rewarding and fun.

Marching season begins with band camp two weeks before school starts and ends with the last football game or competition in late October or early November. Band students and Colorguard students comprise the Marching Band and participate in Marching Season. All Marching Band members are required to attend Zero Hour.

SUMMER BAND CAMP

Summer Band is essential to the success of your student and the marching band as a performing unit. During band camp, students receive their “basic training” and review of marching techniques and discipline. They learn how to march and to play the marching music and the “stand music” that will be played in the stands during football games. They are introduced to the fall marching field maneuvers. Sectional rehearsals are held separately, at a time determined by each section leader. Students will need to bring the following items to band camp each day:

1. Good attitude, a willingness to learn and an expectation of fun
2. Band instrument in excellent playing condition
3. Tennis (athletic) shoes (**NO flip flops, sandals or boots**)
4. Sunscreen and hat. Please wear cool, light clothing.
5. **LOTS** of water (with student’s last name marked on container)
7. Black pep band flip folder - available at Baum’s Music (292-0707)
8. Reeds, mouthpieces, sticks, and mallets as needed
9. Colorguard: Flags & rifles as required (will be provided)

Students will be practicing outside on the football field, which is located east of VVHS near the baseball fields. APS dress code will be enforced. Students will be **on their own for lunch** each day; they may leave or remain on campus and pack a sack lunch.

PRACTICES AND REHEARSALS

For band students, attendance at all practices and activities is MANDATORY unless prior arrangements have been made with the Director. ***Absences due to illness must be reported to the Director prior to the start of the rehearsal or activity.***

A current calendar is posted on the band website (www.vvhsband.org).

As of this writing in August, the following school schedule is in place:

0 Period	Marching Band (6:30 AM start time!)
1 st Period	Marching Band/Concert Band
5 th Period	Jazz Band

After School Rehearsals

There are weekly afternoon Sectionals (TBA) and periodic full band rehearsals after school for the entire Marching Band (TBA). These rehearsals are MANDATORY for all band students, with the exception of certain athletes, CEC students, etc.

Athletes involved in fall athletics do not attend these rehearsals. Instead, they go to their regular athletic practice. If they do not have an athletic practice, they are expected to be at after-school band rehearsals.

All after-school rehearsals are considered mandatory and will be graded.

Mandatory Stadium Rehearsals

There will be two or three after-school rehearsals in October that EVERYONE (including athletes and CEC students) must attend. Band students who are involved in other school activities (sports, drama, school clubs) are required to inform their coach, director or sponsor that they MUST attend these rehearsals. All scheduling conflicts must be discussed with the Director at least two weeks prior to a mandatory rehearsal.

Some of these rehearsals will be held at an APS stadium. Students are responsible for their own transportation to and from these rehearsals. APS must approve these rehearsal dates and they will be announced at the start of the school year.

As the season progresses, rehearsal times may shift, according to the demands of the program, the schedules of the band performances and competitions, and Daylight Savings Time changes.

PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE REGULARLY (www.vvhsband.org) FOR UPDATED INFORMATION. ALWAYS REFER TO ANY SCHEDULE THAT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO YOU BY THE DIRECTOR.

Being on time is required for all band students. The general rule is that “on time” for band events means students should arrive at least 15 minutes before the announced time.

FOOTBALL GAMES

The Marching Band performs – in uniform – at all home and some away Volcano Vista football games held in Albuquerque. If VVHS is the home team, the show will be performed at halftime. If VVHS is the visiting team, a portion of the show will be performed before the game begins (pre-game).

The Drum Majors direct pep music selections. Games are typically on Thursday or Friday nights at 7:00pm and occasionally on Saturday afternoons at 2:00pm.

Preparation

- Eat healthy foods. DO NOT SKIP meals.
- Arrive early - as instructed by the Director. Report times will be posted on the website and announced in class.
- Arrive wearing athletic shorts, band t-shirt, black socks, and marching shoes. Students will change into uniform in the band room.
- After students have changed, they will meet in the band room for attendance, uniform inspection, and announcements.
- After inspection, students will load equipment and buses to depart for stadium venue. All students are expected to help load the equipment truck before each performance and unload the equipment truck upon returning from a performance.

Bus Etiquette

- All students are expected to ride the bus to and from each performance.
- Students will load the bus according to the instructions of the chaperones or director.
- The students are to remain seated at all times while on the bus. Normal bus behavior is expected at all times. No hands and arms out windows; nothing thrown from bus windows.

- There is to be no talking between VVHS and Unser; windows are to remain closed during this time.
- Once on the freeway, talking should be kept to a reasonable conversational tone.
- Windows may be opened on the freeway.
- There is to be no yelling or cheering out of the bus windows.
- When approaching the away game school, the windows are to be closed and silence is to be maintained.
- When leaving the away school, windows are to be kept closed, interior lights are to be turned off.
- Chaperone instructions must be followed at all times; Chaperones are to be accorded the same respect as APS teachers and officials.
- Unload the bus when instructed to do so by the chaperones or the director.
- Check immediate and surrounding seating area for personal items before leaving the bus.

At the Stadium

The following guidelines are for the safety of the students. They also contribute to maintaining discipline, orderly behavior and appearance of this large group at public performances. These guidelines are explained to all students at the beginning of the year.

- Enter the stands according to the Director's instructions.
- Band members will sit in sections of like instruments at all times. Only current band members are allowed in the band section of the stands when the band is seated in the stands.
- Students are considered to be **"in performance"** during the entire football game; accordingly, they are not allowed to visit with parents, siblings, relatives or friends while in uniform at games and contests. This applies when they are sitting in the stands as well.
- Students are expected to pay attention to the Director(s) and Drum Majors for instructions, and play only as a full band when in the stands; no individual playing is permitted.

The students are not allowed to accept food or drink from anyone other than the refreshment committee or chaperones. Students will be provided water and a snack after half-time. Typically, they will have 3rd quarter to use the restroom and purchase concessions.

Students are allowed to visit the restrooms only if accompanied by a chaperone or accompanied by another same sex band member (after checking in).

A nurse or chaperone with a first aid bag will respond to any student requiring assistance during the games.

Parents, please plan ahead. Please do not disturb or distract band members while they are in the stands in order to make plans for after the game or to give students money for snacks.

No band member is allowed to leave the performance early unless excused by the Director prior to the performance. The proper APS form must be filled out and signed in advance by the Director and a VVHS Administrator. Forms are available in the main office.

Post-Game Procedure

Band students unload their equipment and file quietly into the Band Room and sit down.

The band watches the tape of the halftime show and listens to the Director's comments of the performance.

Announcements are made.

Students are dismissed to change out of their uniforms.

Students hang up their uniforms in accordance with instructions from the Band Aides or Uniform Quartermasters and check in their Uniforms and Hat Boxes to either a Band Aide or a Uniform Quartermaster before leaving the band room.

Students take home their marching shoes, gloves and Band t-shirt.

A phone will be available to call for a ride home if parents are not in attendance at the game or performance.

Because of these post-game activities and procedures, students may not be dismissed for 30 to 45 minutes after returning to the Band Room following a home or away game. This routine can make Thursday or Friday nights late, especially after away games! This is a great time to offer your help

while waiting for your student to be dismissed. There is always equipment to be unloaded.

If you are unable to attend the game, please estimate the dismissal time and arrive a little early. There are no chaperones or adults supervising students waiting for late arriving parents to pick them up at the school.

MARCHING BAND REQUIRED CHECK-LIST

1. Approved black Band Marching shoes. The band members all wear the same special brand of marching shoes. All high school bands in the area wear these same shoes. They are available for \$40.00. Students will be fitted for shoes during band camp, and can order at the conclusion of band camp.
2. Approved white marching gloves - at least three pairs at \$3.00 per pair are needed. These can be ordered at the same time the shoes are ordered.
3. Warm-ups and band t-shirt - ordered in the fall for Incoming Freshman and New Students to the Volcano Vista Band. This functions as the secondary uniform (for volleyball games and other events), and can be ordered at the same time as the shoes and gloves.
4. Three pair of new black socks - can be purchased anywhere - suggest over the calf length to avoid "gaps".
5. A pair of black athletic shorts - worn under uniform. When necessary, students change clothes together in bathroom or band room. This ensures the standard of modesty.
6. Chapstick or other lip balm.
7. Thermal underwear for cold weather.
8. Hand warmers for cold weather, optional. These may be purchased in the sporting goods department at K-Mart or Wal-Mart.
9. A signed, notarized Permission to Travel / Emergency Medical form stating whether the student may receive medical treatment from the chaperones to include Tylenol, Advil, Pepto Bismol, cough drops, etc. Be sure to list any restrictions on first aid treatments. These and other forms will be made available at or near the first week of school. ***If your student has other special medical needs or conditions, e.g., diabetes, seizures, please advise the chaperones and plan for at least one parent to be in attendance at each band performance.***

UNIFORMS

General

- Each year, students will be fitted and loaned an official VVHS Band uniform. The uniform committee will also provide any alterations necessary to properly fit the uniform.
- All uniform pieces issued to band students are the property of Albuquerque Public Schools and may be worn only for band performances.
- Each student is responsible for the care and upkeep of their uniform. Uniforms are designed to last ten years. **Never cut the cloth of a band uniform when making alterations or repairs.** The band uniforms are extremely expensive to replace (\$600 to \$750 each). **Never wash uniform or parts in a washing machine.** Students will be fined for lost or damaged uniforms per APS policy.
- The band t-shirt and black athletic shorts are to be worn under the uniform for both marching and concert season at all times. The band t-shirt and shorts are to be kept at home and worn to the band room prior to each game, concert or contest. ***Absolutely no bare armpits, as they stain and discolor the uniforms.***
- Each student is responsible for the purchase of his or her authorized black band marching shoes, white band gloves and black socks. These items are all prone to be lost. They are to be kept at home and brought to the band room for each game and contest. Make sure to regularly inspect your gloves and shoes for holes, stains, or tears and replace as necessary. Details about where to buy the shoes and gloves will be provided at the start of band camp. ***The student's name must be printed in bold on white tape INSIDE BOTH shoes!***

Band attire for Marching Contests and Football Games

- Band t-shirt
- Black athletic shorts
- Band uniform
- Black socks
- Band gloves
- Black band marching shoes
- Marching hat and hat box.
- Flip holder/folder for music played in stands.

Long hair must be put in a ponytail or bun or pinned up under the band hat. No jewelry of any kind will be allowed while in uniform.

COLORGUARD

The VVHS Colorguard is a very important part of the VVHS Marching Band. They offer an important ingredient to the overall “General Effect” of our show that cannot be provided by the winds and percussion. Colorguard members do not need to play a band instrument to be a member of the marching band. Members will be registered in “Concert/Marching Band” first semester and “Wind Ensemble” for the 2nd semester. This class is for 1/2 credit per semester, attendance will be taken on a daily basis and performance tests will be given throughout each semester. Colorguard is a yearlong class; you must be in both semesters to be eligible to participate in the marching band the following year.

Colorguard Uniforms

Colorguard uniforms differ from Band uniforms and may vary from year to year depending on the theme of the show.

- Colorguard marching shoes are different from band marching shoes. Requirements will be at the discretion of the director and announced at the beginning of each season
- Colorguard students do not receive a hat or hat box; nor do they need white gloves or black socks.
- Stockings or pantyhose are worn under the flag uniform. In cold weather, thermal underwear or unitards are proper, depending on the uniform.
- Colorguard members need to have at each performance as determined by instructor: hair gel/hair spray, bobby pins, hair bands/ties, deodorant, and personal make-up essentials.
- Colorguard will typically wear VVHS warm-ups over uniforms in cold weather. They also may wear a VVHS letter jacket (owned or borrowed).
- Long hair must be kept away from the face. At discretion of the Director or instructor, long hair may be worn in a ponytail or bun. No jewelry of any kind will be allowed while in uniform.

Colorguard Equipment

Colorguard students are issued equipment to use for marching season. If equipment is not returned in useable condition, a fine for replacement may be imposed.

COMPETITIONS

The Band participates in several major Marching Competitions each year. The weeks prior to these contests are very intense and involve extra rehearsals and sectionals. The time surrounding these contests in October and November is exhausting and emotionally demanding for both students and families. The students will need plenty of support and encouragement from their families!

This year's competitions include:

- Valencia Classic – Los Lunas High School on October 10, 2015
- Pageant of Bands – APS Wilson Stadium on October 17, 2015
- ZIA Marching Band Competition - UNM Football Stadium on October 24, 2015
- Tournament of Bands – NMSU in Las Cruces on November 7, 2015

Please maintain extra vigilance to insure that your student does not fall behind in his or her schoolwork during this time of the year. Eligibility is a must as each student is an important part of the show. Student grades must remain in good standing in order to participate in these events.

Tournament of Bands at NMSU is a required, all day Saturday event. This trip is included in the band fee. Students arrive in the early morning at VVHS to prepare for departure on coach buses. Lunch and dinner is included in the cost of the trip. The estimated time of arrival is dependent on finals placement. The website will be updated with approximated VVHS arrival time. A limited number of chaperones will be selected. Parents are encouraged to caravan to Las Cruces and support the Hawk Band performance.

WINTER GUARD

Winter Guard is the second semester class for Colorguard students. It meets during Zero Hour and students earn one-half credit for this class. A positive attitude, commitment, teamwork, and discipline are expected. Attendance is required during class time and at all after-school practices and will be considered a major portion of each student's grading period. Winter Guard members perform at basketball games (schedule permitting) and participate in competitions held throughout the semester.

BASKETBALL GAMES

The band performs as a pep band at boys basketball games played at the school during second semester. The Director will determine which games the band will attend, and will post the schedule on the calendar. These are graded performances for the six-week period.

UNM VOLLEYBALL GAMES

All band students are required to attend one of the best fundraisers for the general fund, the UNM Volleyball games. This pep band will perform at the UNM volleyball games at Johnson Gym at UNM. Students will need to arrange their own transportation to and from the games. The compensation paid to the band for these performances goes to the general fund.

WINTER DRUM LINE

This group meets in the evenings during the winter months. Attendance at rehearsals is required. They continue to have weekly sectionals throughout the school year. Hard work, determination, and practice are expected from all participants. No course credit is given for participating in winter drum line, and anyone is welcome to join. Percussionists will have the opportunity to compete at the annual Duke City Drum-Off competition as well as attend various percussion clinics hosted by UNM, assemblies, and concerts.

CONCERT SEASON

CONCERT BAND/WIND ENSEMBLE

Concert Season begins at the conclusion of Marching Season. During Concert Season, band students participate and perform in the Concert Band or Wind Ensemble. Color Guard students move into Winter Guard where they prepare for spring competitions. Musical festivals and band trips are for the musical education and benefit of all VVHS Band students. All band members are expected to participate and attend every competition and performance. Yes, it is a commitment, but certainly worth it!

All band students audition for chair placement in early November following Marching Season. Each student's audition determines placement in Concert Band or Wind Ensemble. These auditions are typically held during zero hour soon after the last marching competition of the year. Auditions for chair placement use the music selected for All-State auditions and may be obtained at Baum's Music on Eubank & Candelaria or Music Mart on Carlisle near Comanche (for audition selections refer to <http://www.nmmea.com/audition.htm>, or <http://www.vvhsband.org>). Each spring, the Concert Band and Wind Ensemble perform at the District Music Performance Assessment and Festival. Here they are adjudicated by reputable music educators and given comments and a rating. If a rating of Excellent (II) or Superior (I) is received, they are eligible to perform at the NM State Band Contest in April. These students also perform at the annual VVHS graduation ceremony.

JAZZ BAND

In just a short time, the VVHS Jazz Band has built a strong presence. Jazz Band is open to any student who plays a traditional jazz band instrument. Students who are in jazz band must be enrolled in a concert band and the marching band! The only exceptions to this rule are for students who play piano, bass and guitar. Jazz Band is a yearlong class. All band members are expected to participate and attend practices and performances.

Jazz Band has the opportunity to perform at the Albuquerque and UNM Jazz Festivals. In addition to these festival performances, they have many opportunities to perform for various community events.

SOLO & ENSEMBLE

Students have the opportunity to participate in the District Solo and Ensemble Festival during the school year. Typically held in late January or early February, preparation for this event occurs both at school and at home. The band director or private teacher will help students select a solo or ensemble to perform for an adjudicator. This is an optional event and there is a small fee (normally \$5 per student per ensemble) to participate. Participation in this event will earn points towards eligibility for a band letter.

SPRING TRIP

In the past, Concert and Jazz Band students have taken a trip to perform at a National Music Festival or Contest. In addition to the performance, the band has time for sightseeing and lots of fun! Colorguard students are welcome to attend this trip, but usually do not perform as a unit. This trip is optional and dependent upon available funds. The cost of this trip is not included in the annual band assessment and is a separate cost (typically, \$500 - \$900.00 per student). Some fundraising will be available.

BAND BANQUET

An end of the year celebration dinner and award ceremony is held each May. Parents and family members are strongly encouraged to attend, as this is the premier recognition event of the year. Location, menu, and details are planned by the Student Leadership and the Band Boosters. Advance tickets will be sold.

CONCERT UNIFORMS

Checkout will be announced in November at the end of marching season. The full concert band uniform includes the following:

- Tuxedo jacket
- Pants
- Black banded Bow Tie

- Tuxedo shirt (will be purchased by student)
- Cummerbund
- Black mid-calf socks
- Black Marching shoes

How to Wear the Concert Uniform

- The tux shirt is worn buttoned to the top.
- Thread the band of the bow tie through the loop on the back of the shirt collar. Adjust the band if necessary.
- Wear the white shirt points over the band of the tie but behind the bow.
- Wear the cummerbund with the folds pointing down.
- Wear mid-calf length black socks.
- Wear your black marching shoes
- No jewelry (including body piercings), excessive make-up, perfume, or nail polish may be worn. A small wristwatch is acceptable and can be worn.

CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

Band discipline must, of necessity, be strict. The VVHS Band has earned a reputation as a benchmark for outstanding student conduct. Many bus drivers, restaurant operators, convenience store or truck stop clerks, and hotel managers have praised the self-control and courtesy of our band students. Parents and students must continue to exhibit good sportsmanship and considerate behavior at all times.

Band students are subject to APS policy regarding the behavior of students who participate in extra-curricular activities. During registration each August, students are issued a copy of the *Student Code of Conduct* published by APS. It describes various behaviors, the consequences for engaging in them, and it governs what actions APS may take in response to inappropriate behavior. Be aware that guilt by association is the rule in use of prohibited substances. Just being present is grounds for punishment.

APS has disciplinary authority over all students while they are participating in any school-related activity, regardless of time or location.

Please acquaint yourself and your student with the *Student Code of Conduct*. Additional copies are available at the Registrar's office.

SCHOLASTICS AND LETTERING IN BAND

Letter Jackets

Volcano Vista letter jackets may be ordered from several companies in Albuquerque. Consider buying a larger size than the student's current size if your student decides to purchase a letter jacket as a freshman in order to allow for growing room. Band letters are generally awarded at the Band Banquet in the spring. In addition, students may purchase patches at the various events throughout the year to adorn their letter jacket.

Requirements to Letter in Band

The Volcano Vista Band Letter encourages and acknowledges the "above and beyond" accomplishments of band students. Activities that demonstrate exceptional effort include taking private lessons, being selected to honor groups, being an officer or section leader, getting "A"s and "B"s on all playing tests, earning an "A" for 5 of the six weeks grading period, or performing a solo or ensemble at the District Solo and Ensemble Festival.

Attending all of the performances, competitions and rehearsals are basic expectations of the program and **are not** considered going above and beyond. Sometime in April, the Director will announce the date for lettering forms to be turned in. **ALL** students must submit a lettering form. In order to be considered for a band letter, students must complete the required form and submit it to the Director. Letters are awarded at the annual Band Banquet. Students may letter in Band, Colorguard, and/or Jazz Band.

A student will letter in **band** when they meet the following requirements:

Be a member of the HAWK Marching Band and attend the VVHS Marching Band Camp. *If you moved to Volcano Vista after marching season, the experience from your former school may be counted toward a letter.*

Maintain a 3.0 GPA in Zero and 1st Period bands.

Remain eligible every 6 weeks for the entire year.

NOTE: Any absence (excused or unexcused) from any festival, competition or concert performance cannot be made up and will affect lettering.

VVHS BAND LETTERING FORM

PART I: Please circle “yes” or “no” for the following questions.

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|---|-----|----|
| 1. Have you been eligible all year? | YES | NO |
| 2. Have you maintained a “3.0” in 0 hour or 1st period? | YES | NO |
| 3. Were you a member of the marching band? | YES | NO |
| 4. Attend all of VVHS Band Camp? | YES | NO |
| 5. Did you participate in all of our competitions? | YES | NO |
| 6. Have you performed in all of our concerts? | YES | NO |

IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO ALL THE ABOVE, PLEASE GO ON TO PART II.

PART II: Your performance points. You need at least 500 pts. (Wind ensemble needs 600pts.)

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|--|-------|
| 1. Marching Competitions @ 100 pts. each | _____ |
| 2. 2 Concerts @ 25 pts. each, includes the May concert | _____ |
| 3. Pre Festival Band Concert @ 50 pts. | _____ |
| 4. District VII Band Festival (MPAF)@ 75 pts. | _____ |
| 5. NMAA State Band Contest 100 points (Wind Ens. only) | _____ |
| 6. Percussion Concert @ 25 pts. | _____ |
| 7. Brass Choir Concert @ 25pts | _____ |
| 8. Woodwind Choir Concert @ 25pts | _____ |
| TOTAL PERFORMANCE POINTS | _____ |

PART III: Please enter and total your activity points. You need at least 150pts

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|--|-------|
| An “A” average in band for the year, 5 pts. | _____ |
| Auditioned for Wind Ensemble, 5 pts. | _____ |
| Member of the student leadership team, 15 pts. | _____ |
| Performed in the District VII Honor Band, 10 pts. | _____ |
| Audition for All-State, AYS/AYO or any honor program, 10 pts. | _____ |
| Be selected to and performed at All-State, 40 pts. | _____ |
| Member of AYS or AYO, 20 pts. | _____ |
| Private lessons. Every six weeks=5 pts.; 35 pts. Max (Need Teacher Signature) | _____ |
| Participate in Solo & Ensemble (Superior = 40 pts., Excellent = 30 pts. for Solos) | _____ |
| (Superior = 20 pts. Excellent = 10 pts. for Ensembles) | _____ |
| Summer sectionals or mini camps, 5 pts. | _____ |
| Performed in school musical or alternative 15 pts. | _____ |
| Went to FJM Camp, 20 pts. | _____ |
| Attended the Spring Trip, 25 pts. | _____ |
| Attended 90% Basketball Games, 5 pts. (1 emergency miss) | _____ |
| Attended 90% Volleyball Fundraisers, 5 pts. | _____ |
| Attended all Applebee’s Fundraisers, 5pts | _____ |
| Attended carwash fundraisers 5 pts. | _____ |
| Service points (see director), 5 pts. per extra concerts volunteer/service work, etc. 50 pts. max list all service on back of form such as concerts with a stub, misc. fundraisers, community service performances, service projects (winter guard setup, community cleaning, construction) all worth 5 pts. each | _____ |
| TOTAL ACTIVITY POINTS | _____ |

You need at least 500 points in Part II and 150 points in Part III in order to letter.

Do you qualify for a band letter? YES NO What year letter will you receive? 1 2 3 4

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Every student who participates in the VVHS Band or VVHS Colorguard program must keep his or her GPA above 2.0. Each member is essential to achieving the best possible performance. Any student who must miss a band performance because of ineligibility will not receive a band letter.

In order for students to be eligible to participate in competitions, trips and other extra- curricular activities, the New Mexico Activities Association requires:

- No more than 1 “F” on a 6-week report card
- A student must have a 2.0 GPA or better to be eligible

In addition, the following VVHS Band requirements must be met:

- A Student **MUST** participate in the District VII Large Group Band Festival in order to be eligible for the Spring Trip
- Students wishing to hold a VVHS Band leadership position, including Drum Major, must have and maintain a 2.5 GPA.

Schoolwork is each student’s first priority. Students are required to have a 70 or above grade in all subjects in order to participate in band activities. This is the “No Pass, No Play” rule. This is an APS/State of NM rule and there are no exceptions; **THIS RULE IS RIGOROUSLY ENFORCED.**

Because of the intricacy and interdependency of the marching band program, a student who is ineligible after the first six weeks will be placed on alternate status (sidelined) for the remainder of the marching season.

Ineligible students are not allowed to travel or sit with the band on game or contest days; however, they are still required to attend early morning band rehearsals, their scheduled band class period and all other rehearsals and sectionals.

Because Band is a group activity, each individual student is vital to the overall presentation of the marching and concert programs. Accordingly, maintaining student academic eligibility is of the highest importance, not only for the individual student but also for the Band as a whole.

A special concern for Freshmen

Incoming Freshmen students may be particularly vulnerable to academic difficulties as they make the transition from middle school to high school. Accordingly, parents of freshmen need to be especially alert as to how their students are handling high school work and band work together from the outset. We strongly encourage parents to make contact with teachers during Open House and maintain constant communication, especially in the first six weeks of school. Please check ParentVue/StudentVue/Synergy regularly, don't wait to see Progress Reports.

If a band student is having difficulty in a class, tutoring by other band students can be done on an informal basis. Many outstanding students are in the band; they have knowledge in areas where others may have need of assistance, and may be willing to provide support.

GRADING

Overall student grading is based on daily classwork, class participation, performances, playing and written exams (achievement).

All extra sectionals/rehearsals (after school or otherwise) are required by all students. Non-attendance will affect the student's final grade unless excused by the director. (Determination of whether an absence is excused or unexcused is at the discretion of the director).

Grades will be earned according to effort, preparedness, participation, and progress. Points are assessed for each event as follows

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|----------------------------|
| • Daily Classwork | 40% | quantity of class meetings |
| • Performances/Rehearsals | 30% | performances/rehearsals |
| • Assessment | 20% | tests/exams |
| • Final | 10% | final exam |

Students can obtain extra credit by attending concerts and performances approved by the director. Private lessons are another way to obtain extra credit points.

If a student is going to miss any rehearsal or performance they are required to send a written note or email explaining the absence. If the absence is excused, make up work will then be assigned. Otherwise, it will count as an unexcused absence and a zero will be given for that absence. Students who are sent home from any rehearsal or performance for disciplinary reasons are considered unexcused from that event and the grade will reflect accordingly.

GLOSSARY

Accounts: An account is established for each student. Fees and other items, such as T-shirts, are charged to the account. Parents are responsible for paying the account. Portions of several of the fundraisers can apply directly to the student's account.

All-State and Southwest Honor Bands: Bands representing the best musicians in the state. Participants are chosen by audition, which are typically held during (All-State) or after (Southwest) school hours at the end of November, usually at La Cueva High School. Students are responsible for their own transportation to the auditions. Required audition music is available in the summer from Baum's Music or Music Mart. Audition music is also distributed at band camp. All-state music is also the basis for the concert season chair placement auditions, which are held at the conclusion of marching season. For audition information and selections please refer to www.nmmea.com/audition.htm. All State is typically held at UNM in January, and Southwest Honor Band is typically held at NMSU in February.

Band Banquet: A celebratory dinner held near the end of the school year to recognize the accomplishments of the band and individual students. This event typically includes dinner, a media presentation summarizing the year, letter recognition, and awards.

Band Boosters: A parent organization that supports the band by volunteering and supplementing the limited APS funding. Any parent with a child enrolled in the VVHS band program is automatically a "Band Booster". See the website for specific volunteering opportunities.

Band Camp: All-day rehearsals providing intensive learning and practicing of the competition show for POB, TOB, Zia, and football game entertainment. It begins roughly two weeks before school starts. Practices are typically at the VVHS Practice field in the mornings and musical rehearsals inside in the afternoons. Social activities for the entire band or for sections are typically held most evenings after band camp.

Band Manual: The VVHS band handbook is an online document. It includes "everything" you need to know about VVHS band including student information, parent information, rules and guidelines. You may print out your own copy from the website.

Band Staff: Musicians from around the city that participate on a part-time basis with the band all year long. There are instrumentalists who run sectionals, and assistants who work with specific marching groups. There are 5 to 10 different additional professionals who help the VVHS band achieve the highest levels of quality in marching and performance.

Band T-Shirts: Simple white or platinum T-shirt with VVHS Hawk logo on the front. This is worn with warm-ups as the "casual uniform" or "pep band uniform" for the band.

Booster Meeting: The monthly meeting of the Band Boosters. They are typically held the first Monday of the month in the band room and are open to all parents.

Colorguard: The group of students who use flags, rifles and other elements on the field to supplement and add color and drama to the marching show. These students do not

play instruments, but are a critical part of the overall quality of the show.

Community Stadium: Our home stadium located by I-40 and 98th Street (1601 Arroyo Vista Blvd NW, 87120)

Competitions: Events where the band competes against other bands. There are typically three marching competitions: Pageant of Bands at Wilson Stadium, Zia Marching Festival at UNM's University Stadium, and Tournament of Bands in Las Cruces. *HOMEWORK NOTE: October is a heavy competition month and puts the single highest time demand on band students. It is a good idea to put extra effort in other classes prior to October to accommodate the time-crunch associated with competition month.*

Concert Band: First-period band requirement for all band members (until numbers increase). Begins after marching season.

Concert Season: Typically November - May. Several concerts are performed during concert season, including District festival and a possible Spring Trip.

Drum Majors: Students who conduct the band during the marching shows and when the band plays from the stands.

Drumline: Drum section that marches on the field as a group during marching shows and use the following instruments; snares, tenors, bass drums, and sometimes cymbals.

HAWK Absences: Excused absences for school related activities. HAWK absences are used any time that a band function takes students out of class. The teachers, who may choose to not sign them if the student has missed 8 or more non- HAWK absences, must approve HAWK Absences.

Eligibility: In order to be eligible to participate in any extra-curricular activity, a student must have no more than one "F" and better than a 2.0 GPA.

Fees: A general term for the expenses that are accrued over the course of the year for band students. Things that cost the student money include things like t-shirts, trip expenses (meals are included) and other activities. The fees are highest during marching season and for the spring trip. Accounts are set up in each student's name, and some fund raising activities credit directly to the participating student's account. Parents are responsible for covering all of the costs for their student's account with direct payments and/or from fundraising activities.

Football Games: The band attends all local football games. The kids report to VVHS (change into uniform) and ride the band buses with chaperones to and from the game. The band marches during halftime if VVHS is the home team and before the game begins if we are the visitor. The band also plays pep band music in the stands during the game. Band parents usually congregate in the stands next to the band. If the football team makes state playoffs, then the band will typically be there for the football games to support them. These games work just like regular season games, with the band meeting at VVHS and taking buses to the game.

Hat Box: The box full of candy, water, \$\$, change, gloves that the students take to every game. Somewhere in there is a band hat, too! ☺

Letter: Band students may earn a letter if they meet the minimum requirements based on participation in performances, activities and academics. Band students can earn a letter during their freshman year.

Mandatory Rehearsals: Additional mandatory rehearsals are held throughout Marching Season. Typically these are shortly before competitions. All marching band members, including those typically excused for other school activities, must attend to ensure the best performance at these critical events.

March-A-Thon: The band marches through the neighborhood surrounding Volcano Vista with police escort, and collects donations from the community. This fundraiser benefits the General Fund.

Marching Season: Typically late July through early November. It also includes additional rehearsals and at least three marching competitions.

Pageant of Bands (POB): "New Mexico Pageant of Bands" (AKA "Pageant") is a marching competition planned, organized and presented by volunteers representing the Albuquerque area band booster organizations. Selling advertisements for the program is a fundraising opportunity.

Parent Performance: This is the culmination of band camp, usually on a Saturday afternoon/evening. Students march in full uniform on the practice field. The first parent meeting of the year typically occurs immediately before the parent performance.

Pep Band: The general term for bands that play in support of school functions. Most often pep bands play for home basketball games and UNM volleyball games.

Pit: The pit is incredibly important as they enhance the music performance by playing auxiliary percussion parts like cymbals, mallets, timpani, gong, bass drum, chimes, etc. They are stationary and play from the sideline. The pit members are students that are percussionists but are not on the drum line. This group may include uniformed students with ongoing medical circumstances that prevent them from marching. (Through prior arrangement with the director)

Pit Crew: The group of parents who load and unload instruments (not just the pit) and props on the truck and help set up the Pit and Drum Major stands.

Practice Field/Football Field: A grass and lined field East of VVHS.

Section Leaders: The student leadership for each section. Selection is typically based on leadership qualities and musical ability. Most sections have 2 or 3 section leaders. An application process through the director selects section leaders.

Sectionals: Music rehearsal among sections of students who play the same instrument (all flutes, all trumpets, etc.). A student section leader, or a staff instrumentalist may lead sectionals.

Shadows: Marching band members who alternate with other students for the show. Marching shows are designed for a specific instrumentation and number of students. Some students in a section that have more instruments than the show design allows for will be “shadows” for one another and take turns marching. Shadows are determined during band camp.

Show: The complex interaction of music and marching around a central theme. The show consists of an Opener (Movement I), Ballad (Movement II) and Closer (Movement III). VVHS performs one show per year. Typically, a show will be tweaked and fine-tuned throughout marching season, with additional moves and/or props.

Solo and Ensemble: Adjudicated performances by soloists or ensembles at a festival in the spring. This is a chance for students to be evaluated by judges on solo or ensemble pieces of the student’s choosing.

Southwest Honor Band: see All-State

Student Officers: The student leadership organization within the band that provides input to The Booster Board and Directors about student activities.

Tournament of Bands (TOB): "New Mexico Tournament of Bands" is a marching competition sponsored by New Mexico State University and held at the university (NMSU) in Las Cruces. All bands march in the preliminary competition, and the top 10 bands march again at finals for final placement.

Tryouts: Individual performances to determine band and chair placement. Held after marching season. Typically all-state music and scales are the basis of the tryouts

Uniforms: Marching uniforms were new in 2008. Students are fitted during band camp for their marching uniform. The concert uniforms use the same pants, but with a tuxedo jacket. Students purchase their own authorized shoes, gloves, socks, bow tie, and tuxedo shirt.

Wilson Stadium: On Lomas east of Manzano HS. This is also the site for many football games, Pageant and several after-school rehearsals during marching season. Transportation to and from Wilson for after-school rehearsals is **not** provided.

Winterguard: The activities of the Colorguard after marching season ends. They perform to pre-recorded music and participate in Winterguard competitions

Zero Hour: The period before school starts. Zero hour begins at 6:30 AM. Be there, set up, in your spot. To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, to be late is not acceptable.

Zia Marching Band Fiesta: "Zia" is a marching competition sponsored by the University of New Mexico and held at University Stadium in Albuquerque. All bands march in the preliminary competition, and the top 10 bands march again at finals for final placement. <http://www.unm.edu/~bands/Zia.html>