

**VETERANS HIGH SCHOOL  
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

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**2021-2022**



**Handbook**

**GRAYSON MULLIS**

Director of Bands

**KATIE GRIFFIN**

Associate Director of Bands



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# Veterans High School

## Instrumental Music Department

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Dear Parents & Students,

The 2020-2021 school year is going to be a wild ride! First, we are so excited to welcome you to **Veterans High School Instrumental Music Department!** Our goal is to make the Veterans High School Instrumental Music Department the envy of middle Georgia and throughout the state.

To the parents, thank you for letting your child participate in the musical arts. Without support from parents and the community, there could be no band program. The Veterans High School Instrumental Music Department will be entertaining for you and emotionally fulfilling for your child. It takes three parts to make a great band program: the students, the staff, and the parents. It is our sincere hope you choose to get involved with our fantastic band booster program to help continue moving this band forward.

To the band members are constantly on display and each of you must always be aware of the importance of exemplary behavior. You should remember that you represent yourselves, your family, Veterans High School, the Houston County community, and the State of Georgia whenever and wherever you perform. Any misconduct at any time casts a negative light on the band and all those you represent and may well undo the good work of loyal alumni, students, and community members.

To be the band that all others aspire to be will require grit and determination. We must make positive strides to establish and maintain great attitudes and work habits. We must never settle for mediocrity! We assure you we will give 110% to this program and it is our hope that you will join us by being dedicated and committed to taking this program to its highest potential.

This band has a reputation as a “*powerhouse*” among other band directors both at the high school and collegiate level. We will endeavor to maintain the rich tradition of excellence that is already in place and continue moving this band *on and ever upward*. We’re setting our expectations very high because we know you will rise to meet and hopefully exceed them. Buckle up! It’s going to be a fun, exciting year!

Please take time to thoroughly read and become familiar with this handbook. It is full of important information regarding policies and procedures and everything in it will be adhered to and followed. We are also excited to announce the launch of our updated website, [veteransband.org](http://veteransband.org)! Make sure to book mark this and check it regularly. This upcoming year is going to be memorable for the program and we cannot wait to get started!

Musically,

Grayson Mullis  
Director of Bands

Katie Griffin  
Associate Director of Bands



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### OUR IDENTITY

#### **MISSION:**

To Entertain.

*Accomplished by creating music worthy of distinction.*

#### **VISION:**

To be the standard all bands aspire to be.

#### **RULES:**

1. Don't be Stupid.
2. Don't Complain.

#### **CORE VALUES:**

1. Fun
2. Grit
3. Integrity
4. Passion, not emotion
5. Trust the process

#### **EXPECTATIONS:**

1. Understand that all decisions aim to make us better, stronger and more efficient.
2. Have a growth mindset.
3. Think of yourself less and the team more.
4. Make purposeful practice a priority.
5. Do your job and be thankful.
6. Try.

#### **HOW WE DEFINE SUCCESS:**

*"The peace of mind which is the direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing that you made the effort to do the best which you are capable."*

—Coach John Wooden



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Scan above QR Code to get to band website

This website has many resources and documents for you and your band student.

Items on the website include:

- Calendar of Events (able to sync to device)
- Marching Band Music & Recordings - Charms Access and FAQ's
- Documents & Forms that are used in class and marching band
- Contact information for faculty, staff and band boosters
- Information on the programs the Instrumental Music Department has to offer
- Fingering Charts & Scales for all instruments
- Maps to Veterans High School as well as Freedom Field

Guest Area & Charms Password:

VeteransHSBand

***\*\*Case sensitive\*\****



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### GOOGLE CLASSROOM

#### Step One:

Go to the county's website and click on SSO Portal.

Or, click on the link below:

<https://portal.hcbe.net/auth/Login.aspx?ru=L3Nzby9wb3JoYWw=>

#### Step Two:

Students should sign in using their school/county username and password. If you have questions on your username and password, please ask your teacher.

Portal Login

[Forgot Password?](#)

Login

#### Step Three:

Students should click on the Google Classroom app.



Google Classroom

#### Step Four:

Let's get to work! "#\$% When they sign into Google Classroom, they should see several "classrooms". They simply click on 'JOIN' for each class.



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### **GENERAL GUIDELINES**

*The purpose of these guidelines is to ensure the most productive rehearsal atmosphere.*

1. Make intelligent decisions.
2. Disrespect of directors, staff, and other students is absolutely unacceptable and will not be tolerated.
3. All students shall comply with any request made by Mr. Mullis, Mrs. Griffin or their staff or designee.
4. Attendance is mandatory at all events. Never assume an event or rehearsal is cancelled because of inclement weather.
5. To be early is to be on time, on time is late, and to be late is unacceptable.
6. All Veterans High School and Houston County Board of Education Policies will be enforced.



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### **SYLLABUS**

**Course Goal:** The primary objective of band is to entertain. This will be accomplished through the music that is performed at the highest level possible. To perform at this level will require a focus on fundamentals that will be taught during class. The classes will work on technique, characteristic sound development, and music appropriate for its level.

**Expected Outcomes:** The students will be able to:

1. Perform major scales
2. Perform alone and with others
3. Read and notate music
4. Evaluate music and music performances
5. Understand music in relationship to history and culture
6. Listen to, analyze, and describe music

### **GRADING METHOD & DESCRIPTIONS**

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
F	0-69

15% Daily participation

45% Performances & Major Playing Assessments

20% Minor playing, written assessments, and extra rehearsals

20% Cumulative final exam



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### Performances:

Georgia Music Standard 53.03810 states:

*“Participation in concert performances outside of regular class hours is expected.”*

Students are made aware of upcoming performances and band events in plenty of time. Because this is a performance based class, students are required to be at **ALL** performances. **Veterans does not offer a non-performance band class.** If you cannot make this commitment, please choose another elective. You have been provided a performance calendar in a timely manner to assist you in avoiding conflicts. If the student misses an extra rehearsal or performance with a valid excuse (see attendance policies), it is the individual student's responsibility to coordinate an individualized make up assignment. In addition to this handbook, we will follow school guidelines for excused and unexcused absences. Any exception must be cleared by the Directors at least two weeks in advance.

### Performance Attire:

Students in the Freshman Concert Band (5th & 6th Periods) will be required to wear all black for every performance. For gentlemen: black pants, shirt, belt, black socks and black shoes. For ladies: black skirt, dress or pants, black shoes, shirt, blouse, etc. Please make arrangements to have the appropriate clothing at the concerts. Failure to be in dress will negatively affect the students' performance grade. **IF IT'S NOT BLACK, DON'T WEAR IT.**

Students in Wind Ensemble as well as Wind Symphony will be required to wear concert black: gentlemen in tuxedos and ladies in long black dresses. Both of these items will be ordered through the band boosters. The cost is a one-time expense of **\$105** for tuxedos and **\$80** for dresses. It will be the students' responsibility to maintain and keep these items.





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### **Participation:**

Every student is expected to be prepared for class every day and to play at appropriate times. A daily grade will be assigned and the average will be logged in the grade book at the end of every week. Loss of points include but are not limited to:

- The student does not have the required materials for class.
- The student refuses to play their instrument.
- The student talks excessively during class at inappropriate times
- The student engages in any behavior that disrupts the learning environment.

### **Playing Tests:**

Periodically, there will be playing tests to evaluate student's mastery of skills and/or repertoire. Students will have options for completing the playing assessment: schedule a time before or after school, during SOAR time or via Charms. Students will be assessed based on the GMEA score Rubric including:

- correct rhythms
- correct notes
- correct articulations
- correct musicianship (dynamics, phrasing, etc.)

### **Written Assignments:**

From time to time, students will be required to do brief writing assignments on various topics. Both grammar and content will be graded.

### **Final Exam:**

This course includes a cumulative exam at the end of each semester. The final exam during first semester and second semester is worth 20% of the semester grade.

### **Veterans High School Retake Policy:**

Students are permitted to retake **two** major assessments per semester provided they complete the necessary undertakings (ie. tutoring, extra practice, etc).



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### **CLASSROOM PROCEDURES**

**Morning Band Room Procedures :** The band room will be opened in the morning for students needing to drop off instruments, practice, or take care of any additional band-related business.

**Entering the Room:** Students will quickly and quietly enter the room and retrieve their instruments from their assigned lockers. Once the bell rings, students will have two and a half minutes to assemble their instruments, be in a chair, have music out and in order for the days rehearsal. Failure to be prepared when class starts will negatively affect their participation points.

**Bathroom Policy:** Students are to use the bathroom before and after class. Only extreme emergencies (vomiting, bleeding, etc.) will be allowed during instructional time. Students that abuse the bathroom policy will be referred to administration.

**Dismissal from Class:** Students will be allowed between three to five minutes at the end of class to put their instruments up. Once the dismissal bell rings, students will quickly and quietly exit the room. *No stacking chairs & stands any more.*

### **DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES**

While it is expected that members of the Veterans High School Instrumental Music Department act professionally and with maturity at all times, there are some instances where consequences to inappropriate behavior are warranted:

**First Offence:** Verbal warning

**Second Offence:** Student / Teacher conference.

**Third Offence:** Alternate assignment and/or Parent contact

**Fourth Offence:** Disciplinary referral

*\*Excessive offences could result in dismissal from the band program*

*\*Any major infraction, fighting, cursing, etc will result in an immediate disciplinary referral.*



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### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Attendance is mandatory at all events including performances and rehearsals. Band is one of only a few organizations that require 100% participation by every individual for the success of the whole. With that said, there will be situations where a student will have to miss a rehearsal or performance. **Students MUST fill out the purple *Absence Notification Form* and submit to a director PRIOR to the missed performance or rehearsal.** Absences will be coded as “Excused” or “Un-Excused;” see below for descriptions of each:

#### **Excused Absences:**

**Emergency:** These absences are the result of unforeseen circumstances such as sudden illness, family illness, or death in family. Contact the directors *immediately* if an emergency should occur. A note acknowledging the absence is required upon return. **Non-Emergency:** The following are acceptable non-emergency excused absences:

- religious observances
- medical appointments (please try to schedule around rehearsals)
- legal obligations
- family visitation

**Documentation:** When presenting a doctors’ note, please have the doctor be specific with his or her orders so the band staff can follow them.

***\*\*All non-emergency excused absences MUST be submitted prior to the missed event. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action.\*\****

#### **Unexcused Absences:**

An unexcused absence is defined as failure to show up to a Veterans Band event without prior approval and/or an absence for any reason other than the excused absences listed above.

Consequences for unexcused absences are as follows:

- More than one unexcused absence from rehearsal will result in a reduction in the marking period grade
- An unexcused absence from rehearsal may result in suspension from performance
- An unexcused absence on Thursdays prior to a performance, will result in the student not performing the following game and/or competition
- Students with more than THREE unexcused absences or ONE unexcused performance absence, could possibly be dismissed from the band.
- Any other punishment deemed appropriate by the Director of Bands and staff.

***Understand that just because a note or email is provided, that does not mean it will be coded as “unexcused.” This will be evaluated on a case by case basis.***



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### **ATTENDANCE POLICY (CONT.)**

#### **Tardiness:**

Rehearsals and performances BEGIN at the time indicated on the calendar; therefore, students are expected to arrive early in order to get their instrument ready and into proper formation. Students who are tardy to concert rehearsals must check in with the director upon arrival. Students who are tardy to marching rehearsals must check in with the Band Secretary. Failure to check in will result in the student being counted absent.

#### **Consequences for Absences/Tardies:**

Students will run laps for being tardy to marching rehearsals, 1 lap for every 10 minutes late.

One unexcused absence will result in loss of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Break for the next football game. Multiple unexcused absences will result in a conference with the directors, and possible dismissal from the band. Students will also be required to make up missed time outside of regularly scheduled rehearsals.

Tardies and Unexcused absences from class band events, concert rehearsals, or concerts will result in a lowered grade.

#### **Practice Dismissal:**

When picking up your student from practice, please use the parent pick up lane in front of the school. DO NOT park next to the trailers adjacent to the band room. This is for safety purposes. Parents and students need to be punctual when leaving practice/games/competitions. It is unacceptable for students to have to wait more than 15 minutes after practice is over for a ride.

#### **Third Quarter Break:**

Third Quarter Break is a privilege and not a right. Students will sit their Third Quarter Break for attendance issues, disciplinary infractions, disrespect to students or staff, etc.



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### **MARCHING BAND AFTER SCHOOL PROCEDURES**

Marching Band rehearsals will take place every Tuesday and Thursday afterschool from 3:30 to 6:30pm on our Practice Field next to the student parking lot. Attendance at every rehearsal is expected. Refer to the attendance policy regarding questions about this. After the bell, students will gather needed items from the band room, and report immediately to the practice field. Inspection will begin promptly at 3:30.

### **PARENT / TEACHER CONFERENCES**

We at Veterans High School welcome parents' questions and concerns. We advise contacting us by email because that will generate the most prompt and thoughtful response.

If a face to face meeting is necessary, we welcome you! We want to maintain the integrity of the rehearsal schedule so your student receives quality instruction. Therefore, we kindly request that questions and concerns wait until **AFTER** a rehearsal has ended or schedule an appointment ahead of time. Please understand that we may not be available if you show up unannounced.

### **RECOMMENDED WOODWIND MOUTHPIECES**

Clarinet: D'Addario Reserve X5 or Vandoren M30

Bass Clarinet: Vandoren B45

Alto Sax: Selmer Paris S80 C\* (alto) or Vandoren AL3

Tenor Sax: Vandoren TL4, Selmer Paris S80 C\* (tenor)

Bari Sax: Yamaha 5C or Vandoren BL3, Selmer Paris S80 C\*(bari)

### **RECOMMENDED BRASS MOUTHPIECES**

Trumpet: Bach 3C

French Horn: Holton Farkas MC

Trombone: Bach 6.5 AL or Bach 5G (large bore)

Euphonium: Schilke 51D (large bore)

Tuba: Conn Helleberg



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### **INSTRUMENT AND EQUIPMENT CARE**

School-owned instruments and equipment become the responsibility of the student to whom they are assigned. Any damage other than normal wear and tear will need to be repaired at the student's expense. A \$65 instrument rental fee for marching students using school-owned instruments will be assessed as needed. This includes instruments used in band class.

Personal instruments must always be maintained in top playing condition. Students are expected to have all necessary items to make their instrument play. Always show the director your instrument before taking it in for repairs. Remember that horseplay can cause damage to instruments and equipment. Be careful with your own instrument, place it out of harm's way if it is necessary for you to put it down, and never play around with or play on anyone else's instrument.

### **OUT OF SCHOOL BAND OPPORTUNITIES**

**District Honor Band / Region Band / All-State:** Students are highly encouraged to audition for the GMEA District 11 Honor Band and the Georgia All-State Band. These ensembles are comprised of the most talented musicians in the district and state. To be selected for these ensembles is a great honor. District Honor Band Auditions, which serve as the first round of All-State auditions, are held in early December every year. If a student passes the first round, they move to the final round of All-State auditions in January. Region Band is determined by the second round scores.

**University of Georgia Janfest:** Students that have performed above and beyond the duties of a band member will have the opportunity to attend The University of Georgia Janfest. There will be two rounds to get accepted: one at the high school level the other at the University level. Students will write a one-page essay as to why they believe they should be nominated. The names of the students that pass the essay round will be sent to UGA; at that point the University will pick students based on instrument needs. Please watch the board for the specific dates in January.

**Solo & Ensemble:** Students are highly encouraged to participate in solo and ensemble. Solo and Ensemble is an opportunity for students to be rated on a solo or a small ensemble performance. Small ensembles consist of brass quintet, woodwind quintet/quartet, trios, duets, etc.



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**Local Community Bands:** There are two community bands in the area: The Wellston Winds and the Middle Georgia Youth Wind Ensemble. Be on the lookout for information concerning each group.

### **LARGE GROUP PERFORMANCE EVALUATION**

Each year, the Georgia Music Educators Association sponsors a Large Group Performance Evaluation for high schools and middle schools in GMEA's districts. The Concert Band, Wind Symphony and Wind Ensemble will be rated by qualified adjudicators from across the state.

### **BAND LOCKERS**

Each band student will be issued a band locker. Students will be required to use the lock provided. *You may not use a personal lock; it must be a school issued lock.* Students will not be permitted to go to their band locker between classes. It is important to keep the lockers free and clear of trash.

### **LOST OR DAMAGED PROPERTY**

The Veterans High School Instrumental Music Department and the Houston County School System will not be held liable for any lost or damaged property in the band room, band bus, or band trips.

### **LETTERING**

To letter in Concert Band, students must have been a part of the Veterans Band Program for 3 years or 6 consecutive semesters. To letter in marching band, students must have marched in one full season, have no more than 2 unexcused absences (3 unexcused tardies count as 1 unexcused absence), pass off all music/choreography by the given deadlines, and have no more than 3 losses off 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter break.

### **HONOR CORDS**

In order to receive honor cords for graduation, a band member must do the following:

1. Be a graduating senior
2. Have auditioned and been accepted to the South Georgia Region Honor Band.

### **FINE ARTS DIPLOMA SEAL**

Graduating seniors are eligible for the Georgia Fine Arts Diploma Seal. The requirements are as follows:

1. At least 3 Fine Arts classes in the same subject area during high school (with "B" or higher average in each).
2. Participation in at least two fine arts events.
3. Twenty hours of fine arts related community service.
4. Completion of a capstone project.
5. Written Musicianship Statement





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### **FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS**

#### **Marching Band Fees:**

To see a specific breakdown of marching band fees, please request an info packet from the Directors

**Money:** It is of the utmost importance that money is paid *on time*. Failure to do so could result in the band not being able to fulfill its financial obligations. **Money must be placed in an envelope that can be found between Mr. Mullis and Mrs. Griffin's doors then placed in their hands. The outside of the envelope must be filled out in its entirety before it is accepted.**

**Financial Assistance:** Students and parents who have financial difficulties will need to speak to the directors. Fundraisers and payment plans will be available to ensure that ALL STUDENTS who wish to participate in the Veterans Band program will be given the opportunity to do so.

**Obligation List:** The Instrumental Music Department will submit delinquent students to the obligation list on December 1st for the fall semester and May 1st for the spring semester. After those dates, only cash or money orders will be accepted to rectify the outstanding balance.

### **MARCHING BAND PAYMENT SCHEDULE**

<b>2020 Returning Student Payment Plan</b>		
Deposit	\$100	<i>May 26</i>
Installment #1	\$100	<i>June 30</i>
Installment #2	\$100	<i>July 30</i>
Balance Due	<i>various</i>	<i>August 31</i>

<b>Color Guard Payment Plan</b>		
Deposit	\$100	<i>May 26</i>
Installment #1	\$100	<i>June 30</i>
Installment #2	\$100	<i>July 30</i>
Balance Due	<i>various</i>	<i>August 31</i>





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### **BAND OBLIGATIONS QUICK GUIDE**

*\*This is not a comprehensive list. From time to time, other obligations for specific events such as trips, purchases, etc. will be added to your charms account if it applies to you.\**

DESCRIPTION	COST
Tuxedo	<b>\$105</b> (Wind Symphony & Wind Ensemble ONLY)
Dress	<b>\$80</b> (Wind Symphony & Wind Ensemble ONLY)
2021 Marching Band Fee	<b>\$450</b>
Replacement Marching Shoes	<b>\$50</b>
School Owned Band Instrument Rental	<b>\$65</b>
Marching Percussion Stick Fee	<b>\$25</b>
District Honor Band Fee	<b>\$35</b>
Individual Reeds	<b>\$3</b> (cane) <b>\$20</b> (synthetic)

### **COLOR GUARD FEE BREAKDOWN**

*\*\*The cost per student will vary depending on what is needed on an individual basis.*

DESCRIPTION	COST
Band Fee	<b>\$185</b>
T-shirts	<b>\$40</b>
Costumes	<b>\$125</b>
Wind Suit Jacket	<b>\$50</b>
Back Pack	<b>\$15</b>
Pom poms	<b>\$15</b>
Earrings	<b>\$6</b>
New Member Total	<b>\$451</b>
Returning Member total	<i>various</i>



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### **PROGRAM DIRECTORY**

Grayson Mullis, Director of Bands, *grayson.mullis@hcbe.net*

Katie Griffin, Associate Director of Bands, *kaitlyn.griffin@hcbe.net*

#### **Instructional Staff**

Brianna Holland—Color Guard Director

Shelby Lee – Color Guard Instructor

Laura Hancock—Flute Instructor

Tom Brown—Adjunct Staff, former Director of Bands

#### **Booster Officers**

**Co-Presidents:** Stephanie Guimond, *vhsbandspresident@gmail.com*

**Vice-President of Revenue:** Julie Tirino, *VHSBand.VP.Revenue@gmail.com*

**Vice-President of Special Events:** Valerie Wilcox, *vhsbandspecialevents@gmail.com*

**Vice-President of Operations:** Kristen Jones, *vhsbandsvpops@gmail.com*

**Treasurer:** Carie Bulin, *vhsbandtreasurer@gmail.com*

**Secretary:** Angie Brown, *vhsbandssecretary@gmail.com*

**Chaperone Coordinator:** VACANT

**Roadie Coordinator:** VACANT

**Concession Coordinator:** VACANT

**Uniform Coordinator:** VACANT

