

Veterans Memorial High School

Screaming Eagle Band

Handbook



A Note From Your Directors...

Welcome to the Veterans Memorial High School Band Program! We are excited to have you join us and look forward to guiding you on your musical journey. Our classes are filled with top students who are passionate about both academics and music. Instrumental music is more than just a class; it is a place where students can discover themselves and their potential.

At Veterans Memorial High School, we believe in educating the whole student. In addition to musical development, we hold our students to high academic standards. Research shows that music education can enhance academic success by improving learning in other areas. Students who participate in music lessons tend to have higher IQs and engage more of their brain. Music education can even positively impact brain function. In our band program, students will learn important social skills, develop leadership abilities, and learn the value of teamwork.

The Screaming Eagle Band teaches responsibility, discipline, work ethic, punctuality, and organizational skills. We aim to instill character and respect in our students to prepare them for college and beyond. This handbook serves as your contract with the VMHS Instrumental Music Program for the year. Please review it with your family and submit the online signature form by August 21, 2026.

We are thrilled to have you as part of the Instrumental Music Program at Veterans Memorial High School. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Here's to a fantastic year ahead in the VMHS Instrumental Music Program!

Sincerely,

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HOW TO STAY INFORMED

We are a very active program with the students participating in several performances and trips each year. We make every effort to keep our students and parents up-to-date on all of our activities. Below are many ways you can stay informed about everything going on in our program!

Email

We send regular emails with important information about upcoming events, trips, classroom reminder, etc. Emails are sent through the school-wide program Canvas/Parent/Student Connect, so please make sure your email address is registered through your student's school/district account. Please also make sure these emails aren't blocked on your personal email account. If you need assistance updated your email accounts on your student's school district profile, please contact the school front office. We also communicated director through our school CCISD email account, which can be found on the first page of the handbook, as well as on the Veterans Memorial school directory.

Band App

The BAND App is a free application for your smartphone that allows for quick announcements for all students and parents. The app also serves as a social media platform dedicate and only available to the students and parents within the band program each year. Each ensemble may have its own page while there is also a general program page. It is important and that each students and at least one parent are part of our main BAND app group to receive important announcements and information regarding events and happenings for the band.

Website

Our website contains a lot of information about our program. We will frequently post relevant information such as itineraries, media, and constant calendar updates. You can find your website at www.vetsmemorialband.org

Calendar

Our live calendar is available through both the BAND App and on our website (www.vetsmemorialband.org). We will include in our weekly newsletters our most upcoming events, but please take time to review the academic year as band has a very busy schedule.

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Band Organization

Band is a full-year course consisting of two distinct semesters or “seasons.” The fall semester is primarily focused on the marching band season while the spring semester is considered the concert season. The following is a brief description of the various groups that are associated with the Veterans Memorial High School band program:

Marching Band

The marching band performs at all VMHS pep rallies, parades, varsity football games, marching contests and exhibitions. **Membership in the marching band is required of all band members.** Marching Band is part of our curriculum and is a UIL sanctioned activity in the State of Texas. During football season, the Marching band meets at mostly after school during the regular business week. The rehearsal days and times are subject to change as we progress throughout the season. Marching Band students receive PE credits towards graduation for their membership and enrollment in the band class. UIL requires all students to have a current physical examination on file each year.

Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band/Concert Band

Our program has multiple concert bands which will rehearse year-round during the school day and will serve as a student’s band class. There are multiple concert performances during the school year, with a variety of literature performed. Students are placed in their respective concert ensemble by the directors according to the student’s playing ability, attitude, participation, and ensemble instrumentation needs. Students may be moved from band to band at the change of the semester as deemed necessary or appropriate by the directors. These groups will be required to attend sectionals and performances outside of the regular school day.

Percussion Ensembles

The Veterans Memorial High School Percussion Program is proud to provide a wide variety of performance opportunities for our students. During the fall semester, students are placed in either the drumline or front ensemble based on ability, interest, and instrumentation needs. Throughout the school year, students will learn a variety of techniques and instrument pedagogy to become well-rounded percussionists. Students will also have the opportunity to be in multiple small chamber groups, as well as solo experiences.

Color Guard

The Color Guard is an integral part of our marching band. Participation in this group is by audition only. Auditions take place during the spring semester of the previous school year. The guard attends all marching band scheduled rehearsals during the fall semester.. The color guard will perform at varsity football games, pep rallies, and the spring guard showcases. Occasionally this group may be required to attend additional rehearsals outside of the regular school day during the spring semester. During the spring semester, the color guard will participate in the winter guard activity with additional outside of school rehearsals and performances.

Mariachi

Mariachi is a growing component of High School Bands in Texas. Performances for this group include concerts, festivals, competitions, etc. Participation such as rehearsals for this group will take place during Power Hour or after-school. Occasionally this group may be required to attend extra outside of school rehearsals as necessary to prepare for an upcoming performance. The goal of this group is to expand cultural diversity in school and create an environment for student success.

Solo & Small Ensembles

All of our musicians are strongly encouraged to participate in solos and small ensembles during the academic year. This creates further opportunities for students to perform and explore a wide variety of music literature available for their instrument. UIL Contests are available in the spring based on student interest and academic eligibility.

Applied Private Lessons Instruction

There are many qualified private lessons instructors in the area. If students are interested in taking private lessons, we are happy to provide families with the contact information for professionals in our area that can provide individualized instruction on the student's primary instrument. It is highly encouraged and recommended for students to partake in private lessons. Students with the benefits of private lessons not only elevate their own playing but the musicality of the band as a whole. Private lessons can take place outside the school day or during a student's band class at Veterans Memorial High School.

Grading Policy

All grades will be based on the following criteria; periodic playing tests, quizzes, homework including concert reports and other assignments announced by the directors, attitude/participation in rehearsals and performances, and attendance at all band functions.

Grading Percentages

Daily Assessment (Minor Grades)- 20%
Formative Assessment (Minor Grades)- 30%
Summative Assessment (Major Grades)- 50%
Total 100%

Daily Assessment (Minor Grades)- 20%

Materials Checks, Warm-Ups, Individual Practice, Meeting Attendance, Written Assignments

Formative Assessment (Minor Grades)- 30%

Rehearsal Attendance, Playing Exams, Practice Video Submissions, Auditions, Semester Exams.

Summative Assessment (Major Grades)- 50%

All Performances, Semester Exams

Rehearsal/Performance Attendance

A majority of our grading is based on attendance for all rehearsals and performances. Students missing rehearsals and/or a performance with an unexcused absence will have a grade reduction for that event. We do offer an alternate assignment for students needing to miss a performance with an excused absence.

Excused Absences

- Illness with a medical note.
- Death of family member.
- District sponsored performance/match with another site-based athletic or extra-curricular activity.
- Religious Services

The following are NOT acceptable excuses for an absence: truancy; employment; car troubles; hunting; fishing; vacation, or pleasure trips; babysitting; or birthday/other celebrations.

Playing and Skills tests will be administered throughout the year depending on the needs of the ensemble. For example, if there is a difficult woodwind passage, it may appear as a playing test in a clarinet student's grade book, but not a trumpet student's. These assignments are utilized in order to help encourage growth of both the individual and ensemble. Tests will be during a class period, power

hour, or after school. Tests will be administered in the form of scheduled tests, pop quizzes, and mid-term/final exams. Proper notice when necessary will be given in advance. If a student is not satisfied with their score on a playing test, they may schedule an appointment during power hour or after school to request a “retake” test. Students’ original score is NOT set in stone, and students are encouraged to strive for a “perfect score”! For this reason, students may continue to retake a test until satisfied with their score, so long as it is during the same grading period. If students have an excused absence, they may also make-up the test. Students will be scored accordingly based on the following elements, as appropriate: *Tone, Articulation, Note Accuracy, Dynamics, Rhythm, Musicality and Expression, General Technique, Choreography, Equipment Proficiency and Memorization.*

Signed Documents are items that must be signed by the parent/guardian and returned to the Band offices by a specified deadline. This includes UIL Physicals which are to be completed every two years, Rank One documents, and/or any other forms required by the band program.

Academic Eligibility

Students must be academically eligible to participate in extracurricular activities under no-pass, no play. A student who has a grade average lower than 70 in any course or has an Incomplete (INC) grade shall be suspended from participation in any UIL/extracurricular activity. Extracurricular activities include, but are not limited to: public performances, contests, demonstrations, displays, and club activities. A few exceptions to the UIL/Extracurricular Activity eligibility exist. No Pass-No Play rules do not apply to an advanced placement (AP) or international baccalaureate (IB) course, or to an honors or dual credit course in the subject areas of English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, or a language other than English.

Students participating in UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Evaluation for the high school band, high school choir, and high school orchestra are exempt from the No Pass, No Play rule.

Intersessions will not be used to regain eligibility for UIL or extracurricular activities.

Necessary Instrumental Accessories

Just as in athletics and clubs, extra materials may be necessary for involvement (ex: soccer players need cleats, baseball players need gloves). We as musicians need reeds and supplies to maintain proper care of our instruments and to properly perform.

- **ALL musicians must have a black binder and sheet protectors for their music storage.**
- All musicians must have a working pencil and eraser for all rehearsals.
- All woodwinds/brass- A Tuner and metronome with microphone clip.
- Woodwinds — A box of usable reeds, cork grease, and a swab or feather to maintain instrument health.
- Brass — Valve oil, slide grease, and snakes to clean instruments. Mutes are highly encouraged and may be required by directors depending on the music being played.
 - To maintain a clean instrument and avoid bacteria buildup, students should clean their mouthpieces with hot water and soap regularly. Q-tips will also help with the cleaning process.

Brass should also run unflavored Listerine through their instruments at least once a semester.

Woodwinds must swab their instruments after each use to prevent water/bacteria build up. Please ask your director for further instructions before doing this on your own.

- Percussion — Appropriate concert/marching sticks and mallets, taped per your instructor, according to what ensemble you participate in.
- Guard — Students should have their own black guard flag/equipment bag, white and black electrical tape (at all times). Any student spinning rifle or saber will be required to purchase gloves. Dance should also be required of all guard members.

****Students will be given a two-week grace period to obtain these supplies necessary to maintain a healthy instrument. After those two weeks, directors may do a check for these supplies, including pencils and music. All items can be obtained at local music stores such as South Texas Music Mart. Online retailers are also an option; please speak with a director for advice on great websites. Any families needing assistance obtaining these materials should discuss options with their director.**

Notable Details

Preparation and Practice

It is expected that all students practice outside of class time and show consistent improvement. Rehearsal is not for learning your part, it is your responsibility to practice outside of rehearsal, so that rehearsal can be for growing as an ensemble. All students will be ready to come to rehearsal to learn everyone else's parts. Parents/guardians are encouraged to ensure their student is practicing at home, much like they'd oversee their student completing their academic homework. Students are highly encouraged to take private lessons. These lessons are invaluable to achieving the most from your instrument. If you are interested in progressing further on your instrument, please contact your ensemble director for a recommendation on private lesson educators in the area.

Emergencies

In the case of a last minute emergency, a parent/guardian must contact the director of the ensemble. Please note contact information as listed on the first section of the handbook. Failure to communicate in this manner will result in an "unexcused absence". Communication from a student *only* will not be accepted, *parent guardian notification is required*. **Parents/Guardians, please notify your student's ensemble director within 48 hours of a missed event due to an emergency to be excused from the event.**

Tardy Policy Regarding Rehearsals and Performances

- If a student is tardy to a class period, directors will follow school policy. Please refer to the student/parent handbook from CCISD and Veterans Memorial High School for further information.
- Being tardy to an outside of school rehearsal will have varying consequences based on the ensemble director, and depending if the tardy is a reported or first time offense.
- Being tardy to a performance is unacceptable, and will result in the lowering of that performance grade.

Leaving Early from a VMHS Event

Students are not allowed to leave a performance until all performing ensembles/other performance obligations (clinics, sight reading, clean up, etc.) have concluded and students have finished cleaning-up as necessary and have been formally dismissed by the ensemble director. Leaving early from a performance will result in a grade penalty at the discretion of the director. Leaving early from "Clean Up" will *also* result in a grade penalty. This includes leaving before all chairs and stands are stacked, all equipment secured, trash picked up, etc. This applies to all concerts, rehearsals, and fundraisers.

In the case where a family would like pick up their student from a band event without traveling back to Veterans Memorial High School with the band program, they **must complete an Early Dismissal Form at least 48-hours prior to the scheduled event** to collect the necessary administrative signatures.

Audition Policy

We proudly offer a variety of ensembles here at Veterans Memorial High School, and some ensembles or groups may require auditions. Admittance into these ensembles will be based on both a student's preparation, performance ability, attitude, and attendance track record. Some ensemble may also have chair placements, and those decisions will be made based on performance preparation and execution. Any further inquiries regarding auditions may be forwarded to your director.

Conflicts

Conflicting schedules are something we must try to avoid at all times to ensure the success of our music program. Students will generally NOT be excused from band performances to participate in non-school events, vacations, parties, etc. Performances are what we work hard towards, and missing a performance in a season may affect a student's ability to be a member of that ensemble. Missing performances negatively affect the entire ensemble, not just the student absent. In a math class, if a student does poorly on a test it only affects their success. In ensemble and team activities such as music, a student missing from a performance brings down the level of all other students involved. Before committing to an ensemble, please ensure there are no conflicts on rehearsal or performance dates. At the beginning of each ensemble's season, a list calendar and commitment form will be given to the students and parents/guardians, and must be turned in before admittance into the ensemble. It is at the discretion of the directors on whether a student is to remain in an ensemble if they are requesting to miss a performance.

Students will also generally not be excused from missing rehearsals or practices. Extenuating circumstance leading to a student's absence will be evaluated by the directors and may have no effect on the student's grade, but in general, absences will affect a grade negatively when they are unexcused. Make-up assignments will only be provided if the student and parent/guardian has an excused absence form signed, submitted and approved before the appropriate 2-week time period requirement.

Students who participate in more than one VMHS co-curricular or extracurricular activity should bring their co-curricular/extracurricular sport/activity calendar to their ensemble director as soon as it becomes available. Conflicts will most often be discussed and an agreement will be made between the director and the other adult of the alternate VMHS activity to find these conflict. **It is the responsibility of the student and their parent/guardian to review their calendars and notify the director of the conflict.** Students in the above mentioned situation may be allowed to miss rehearsals, performances or portions of each according to the following criteria:

- Instrumental Music Rehearsal vs Athletic/Activity Practice: Student will split time between the two practices.
- Instrumental Music Performance vs. Athletic/Activity Practice: Student will attend the instrumental music performance.
- Instrumental Music Rehearsal vs Athletic Game/Activity Performance: Student will attend the Athletic Game/Activity Performance..
- Instrumental Music Performance vs. Athletic Game/Activity Performance: Directors and Coaches of each activity will decide where the student will be most needed, and let the student know which activity to attend. Administration may also be involved in this decision making process. Student will NOT decide which activity to attend. In several cases, with the help of parents/guardian transportation, students have been able to attend both events.

NOTE: Each case may be different depending on upcoming performances, competitions, or athletic matches, and Coaches and Music Directors will work with each other accordingly.

Music Policy

Students are responsible for the condition of their music. Music must have the student's name in pencil in the upper right corner. Concert music is to be stored in a director authorized folder (black binder with sheet protectors). The music library is off limits to students unless others stated by a director for a specific reason. The first copy of music is free. Additional copies are available at a \$.25 donation per page. Larger packets handed out, if lost, may be replaced at a higher rate.

IMPORTANT: All VMHS and CCISD policies are in effect at all times when representing the Veterans Memorial Band and Color Guard. This includes rehearsing, traveling, and performing. Remember to think before you do, as you represent the program.

UNIFORMS

VMHS Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band/Concert Band Uniform: Concert Black Attire

- Gentlemen: All Black Dress Attires. Formal Jackets are available to borrow from the band program. Students must have their own black slacks, black long-sleeved dress shirt, black neck tie, and black dress shoes with long black socks.

- Ladies: Appropriate formal black attire for their instrument. If you wear a dress or skirt, it MUST be solid black and fall below the knee while sitting. No slits above the knee. When wearing a dress/skirt ladies must also wear black tights/nylons. If it does not fit this criteria, you will not be allowed to perform or you will be asked to change into black slacks. Therefore, slacks and a blouse are highly encouraged. Women must also have arms covered from elbows up while on stage (cardigan or formal jacket, but may be removed in the audience if blouse/dress is still in dress code). All attire must follow CCISD Dress Code policy. Addendum: High heels are acceptable so long as the heel does not exceed three inches. Please see your student handbook for details.

****If you have questions regarding concert uniform, please ask a director for more information.****

VMHS Color Guard Uniform

- Show uniforms are different each year and determined by the color guard director and head band director.
- Rehearsal attire: Appropriate dance wear in rehearsals is acceptable for the color guard as it is not distracting and covers the body appropriately. Leggings and biker shorts under running shorts will be acceptable. Attire must follow CCISD dress code policy. Please see your student handbook for more information.

Marching Band Rehearsals Dress Code

- Athletic shoes and non-constrictive athletic clothing is to be worn at all marching rehearsals. Students must always be in dress code.
- Appropriate dance wear in rehearsals is acceptable for the color guard as long as it is not distracting and covers the body appropriately.
- Acceptable Hats: All VMHS approved hats, Panama-style brimmed hat, Asian-style hat, Cowboy hat, Sombrero.

Marching Uniform and Equipment Policy

- **Half Uniform:** Solid black calf-length socks, black marching band shoes, uniform pants, and black compression shirt.
- **Full Uniform:** Solid Black calf-length socks, black marching band shoes, black compression shirt, uniform pants, marching jacket/Dry-fit top, shako (marching band hat), plume, gauntlets, black gloves (white for drum major). *Note: gloves must be in good condition, and instrument must be polished.
- **Percussionists** also need wristbands.
- Shoes are to be highly polished prior to ALL events.
- Solid black long socks and appropriate undergarments are to be worn under the marching pants.
- Instruments and equipment are to be cleaned, polished, and/or touched up prior to all performances.

VMHS Uniform Policy

Uniform and Other Policies According to School. While at an event, students must stay in FULL uniform until otherwise state by a director (I.e. Ties should remain tied. Cardigans on if wearing a blouse that has straps thinner than 2 inches. However, a suite/tux jacket may come off, but it must be stored neatly. Tights/nylons should remain on even when not on stage. A change of shoes is allowed, but student(s) must remain in black dress shoe ex. Black heels, to black flats). When not in performance uniform, students all wear: jeans, athletic/comfortable in dress code shoes, and current band program t-shirt, unless state otherwise. Please note that school owned uniforms should be treated with respect. If a student is not taking care of their uniform, said student could be penalized with detention or expected to replace the damaged/lost uniform. Hair and any facial hair should be well groomed and maintained for all public performances. **Remember, if you are not in appropriate uniform you may not be allowed to perform with your ensemble, which would result in a lowering of your performance grade.*

Rules, Discipline, Expectations & Guidelines

Expectations

1. Be prepared
 - a. Come prepared to every rehearsal with your own music, instrument, and other specified class materials.
 - b. Be prepared to make mistakes and learn from them
2. Be respectful
 - a. Show respect for all instruments, equipment, music facilities, and other people's property.
 - b. Show respect to directors, staff, fellow students, and guests.
 - c. No playing any instrument other than instruments you own or that are assigned to you. This included color guard and percussion equipment.
 - d. Only students whoa remembers of the instrumental music program are permitted in music classrooms.
 - e. Always warm up properly with good tone and technique.
 - f. Please raise your hand if you have a question and wait to be called upon.
Generally, talking is not permitted during rehearsal.
3. Be positive
4. Be productive
 - a. Before, during, and after school the band hall will be available for music production only. Lunch time is the only time the band hall is available primarily available for socializing.
 - b. Cell phones must be off and not out doing class per Texas State Law and District policy. Cell phones MUST be turned off during performances. Cell phones are to be left in your locker/backpack/instrument case during all performances and rehearsals unless otherwise specified.
5. Be your best
 - a. Students are expected to give their best effort at all times.

General Classroom Rules

- NO gum, food or drink (except water in a spill-proof container).
- No profanity
- No PDA (Public Display of Affection)
- No running, horseplay, hanging, throwing or kicking of items.
- Students must get approved to write on the whiteboard or play music through speakers.
- Clean up after yourself. Stack your chair and stand, throw away trash, keep your locker and shared spaces clean and tidy.
- NO RANDOS IN THE BAND ROOM!

Discipline Plan

- **Step 1)** A verbal warning to the student.
 - Student will get three strikes before they are “Out.”
- **Step 2)** Lunch or after-school detention and a call to parents/guardians.
- **Step 3)** Referral to site administration
- **Step 4)** Parent/Guardian contract and recommended removal from the band program.

This 4 step system is to help ensure:

- 1) The best, most productive educational environment for all students.
- 2) The continued quality of high excellence in the Band Program.

In General

- Common sense should rule all the time. If you would not do something in the presence of a director, then don't do it!
- No students allowed in the Band Hall without a director or staff member present.
- Students are responsible for obtaining any information missed due to an absence.

Lockers

- Instrument cases must be kept in your locker during rehearsal or small cases may be placed under your chair.
- Lockers will be assigned.
- Lockers are to be kept clean and free of clutter.
- Lockers must be cleaned by its user with provided materials twice a year. Cleaning times will be designated by your director.
- Absolutely NO food in your lockers.
- Do not hang on the locker doors.
- No one should ever be in a locker.
- Do not write on or decorate your locker in any permanent fashion. Do not put anything on the outside of your locker.

Internet/Social Media Etiquette for Students AND Parents

- As a member of the Veterans Memorial High School Band program, you represent the group at all times, including on social media platforms. It is expected that you hold yourself and the group to the highest of standards. Any instances of slander, hate speech, cyber bullying, or other inappropriate comments directed towards individual members or section of the program, the program as a whole, its directors and staff or other programs will not be tolerated and may result in disciplinary action.
- Copyright laws prohibit the posting of videos of our ensembles online at any time. Please do not post videos on any social media (YouTube, Facebook, etc.) of any performing ensemble. This is to protect our copyright compliance, and the privacy of our students.
- Please remember that you represent our program when posting on Social Media platforms. NEVER say anything negative about another music program on the internet, a forum, social media, etc!
- DO NOT send Facebook/instagram/Snapchat etc friend requests/messages to any director or staff member. If you need to contact a director or staff member, please use the school email addresses provided on in the handbook or school website.
- We encourage all students and parents to participate in our social media pages.
- Please remember, social media is not a place where you can say and do whatever you want without consequences. Think twice before posting. If you would not want your parents, family, teachers, or future boss to see your post, do not post it! The internet is permanent - even if you delete something, it still exists somewhere and eventually, everyone will be aware of your negative/unkind post. We encourage all students to protect themselves by maintaining a positive self-image that you can be proud of years from now.

Performance & Trip Rules & Guidelines

These rules and guidelines are in place to ensure the safety of all of our students, staff, and chaperones, and should be followed at all times.

General Rules

- First and foremost: Always act in a way that positively represents yourself, the program, our school, and our community at all times.
- Punctuality is essential. Refer to your itinerary for schedule details. You are expected to have the itinerary with you at all times. Be early for everything and help everyone stay on time. Remember, early is on time, on time is late.
- CCISD Dress Code must be followed at all times. Flip-flops are okay and appropriate comfortable clothing may be worn on the bus ride.
- No PDA (Public Display of Affection) at anytime.
- No profanity, profane behavior, or conversations of inappropriate nature.
- If you do get sick or do not feel well on the trip, please notify a chaperone or director immediately.
- The CCISD Code of Ethics is to be followed at all times. This includes, but is not limited to the possession/use of any controlled substances, alcohol, tobacco, etc. It does without saying that your behavior must reflect our program and Veterans Memorial in the most positive way possible.

- All medications, prescription or over the counter medications, must be checked in with the chaperone prior to departure and cleared with the school through all necessary actions and procedures.
- Respect the property of others. Do not borrow or take another's property without being given permission to do so. On the same note, please watch and protect our belongings. If you see something suspicious, report it to a chaperone or director immediately.
- You should always be in groups of four (4) or more when not with the entire group.
- Please refer to chaperones as Mr., Mrs., or Ms.
- At any time a large body of water is involved, students must have an adult present dedicated to monitoring all water play activity in order to enter said body of water.

On The Bus

- You must remain in your seat anytime the bus is in motion.
- No known couples may sit together.
- Female students sit with female students. Male students sit with Male students.
- You must use headphones with music/video players always.
- Please keep the noise to a minimum when having a conversation.
- All movies watched must be school appropriate (No matter what device you watch them on).
- You must not be on the bus at anytime without a chaperone.
- The restroom on the bus is for emergency use only. Please wait until we stop, if possible.

During Free Time

- You are required to stay in groups of 4 or more when you have free time. If you are seen with less, you will remain with a chaperone until the free time is over. Do not leave any location without your entire group (i.e. don't leave anyone behind).
- Check-Ins, report times, and meeting places are set in the itinerary. Don't be late!
- Be careful when crossing streets. Use crosswalks. Be aware of your surroundings.
- If there is an emergency, contact directors/chaperones immediately.
- You are not to leave the group to visit family/friends without permission from the head chaperone/director.

In The Audience

- Be positive and supportive of all the groups performing.
- Do not talk, text, or use your cell phone during any performance. No cell phones should be out or seen when a group is performing.
- Do not enter or exit the performance venue during a performance.
- If you need to use the restroom, please wait to leave between pieces or ensembles.

At The Hotel

- You may not enter any other hotel room except the room you have been assigned.
- Known couples may not room together.
- No student should ever be alone in their hotel room. Please coordinate and make sure there are 2+ roommates present at all times for safety purposes.

- Visitors from outside of our program (including parents who are not chaperones) may not enter student hotel rooms at any time.
- Out of respect for other hotel guests, you must remain reasonably quiet at all times when in the hotel. This extends to movement in the halls or other public areas of the home as well as your room. Do not play your instrument in the hotel room. No running is allowed in the hotel.
- Evening Room Check will be strictly enforced. Any personal needs which might require leaving your room must take place before room check. You may not leave your room for any reason after room check and before the designated time each morning (except for a hotel emergency).
- “Lights Out” means get some sleep! Each of you must have enough rest for the next day’s activities. Adequate rest is necessary and essential for a safe, healthy and successful trip.
- Please respect the hotel property. Keep your room near and in the manner you found it. Do not move any of the furniture.
- You may use the pool only if there are at least four of you, and a chaperone is present in the pool area. No Exceptions.
- Room Check Out: At the scheduled check out time, everyone must be in the room with their luggage packed and the room straightened up. A Chaperone will come and inspect your room. Please give all hotel keys to your chaperone. You may not load the bus prior to being dismissed by the chaperone.

In General All Students and Families Please Remember: When you are at a performance venue, a trip, or a festival/contest, you are representing not only Veterans Memorial High School, but Corpus Christi Independent School District. This also goes for if you are wearing a band program shirt OUTSIDE of a performance venue, trip, or festival/contest. Conduct yourselves accordingly, and be aware of the impact you can have by your actions when wearing a uniform representing our school, district, and community.

Code Of Ethics

Students participating in District co-curricular and extra-curricular activities must follow the Code of Conduct standards at all times. This obligation and responsibility continues at all times, including summer vacation. Students are subject to the Code of Conduct and related school rules affecting participation in District co-curricular and extra-curricular activities when students are under the supervision of a District advisor/coach, while at school or at a school-related activity, as well as at non-school related activities/ Students and the coaches, advisors, and parents/guardians of the student participating in District co-curricular and extra-curricular activities will abide by this Code of Conduct. These persons must demonstrate honesty and integrity in compliance with the academic, residency and good citizenship requirements of the Code of Conduct.” NOTE: Students are expected to comply with the Code of Ethics at all times in order to participate in the VMHS Instrumental Music Program.

In summary, Instrumental music students should be aware that:

- The Code of Ethics applies 24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year
- Use of drugs, alcohol, weapons, tobacco, etc. will not be tolerated.
- They will always display a high level of sportsmanship and respect for fellow members of our program, parent volunteers, and our directors and staff.
- Being a community role model comes with being in our program.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

The Veterans Memorial High School Band, Veterans Memorial High School and the Corpus Christi Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, disability, or national origin in admission or access to and treatment of employment in its programs and activities as required by Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504.

Please review this handbook, review all policies and expectations, and complete the online signature form available through the QR code below no later than **Friday, August 21, 2026.**



