

Symmnes Valley Marching Vikings



Band Handbook 2019 / 2020

Mr. Jarvis, Director

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Letter from the Principal

As a member of the Symmes Valley Viking Band, you are now embarking in an experience that we hope will be very rewarding. As a member of the band, you will play an integral role in the whole school experience by supporting athletic teams at contests, representing our great school at public events, and competing against your peers at other schools in hopes of earning a spot in the state band competition!

I encourage you to participate fully as a member of the band. Not only will you be able to learn how to play an instrument, but you will also learn the value of teamwork and may even be asked to provide leadership in various forms. I encourage you to take this opportunity seriously because many of the attributes you learn through your participation in band will serve you long after high school.

The Symmes Valley Viking Band Handbook has been carefully designed to help you have a successful experience, and it addresses most situations that you may encounter throughout the year. Additionally, the handbook has been designed to support the high expectations of a band member. I ask that if you have any questions or concerns, discuss these with the band director to get any needed clarification.

Though we may be small in number, your effort shines through - I trust that you will continue to support each other as you go through this school year. Fortunately, we have a supportive group of parents, an active booster club, and a dedicated band director and color guard advisor. With everyone working together, I am sure that our band will represent our school and community with pride.

Greg Bowman, Principal
Symmes Valley High School

Letter from the Director

Welcome to one of the most exciting experiences in which you can be a part - THE BAND!!!! We are all looking forward to this year and preparing for our halftime performance and various other performances. I know there has been a precedent of some very good musicianship at Symmes Valley, and I'm greatly excited to see how far we can take the marching band. We have a space to practice field work, a great band room, and plenty of exciting tools at our disposal to help each student achieve their best musically. Students and parents alike should be excited about the Symmes Valley Band, and be visible in that excitement.

We are always recruiting. Our band is small right now, but I see massive potential in each of its members, and in my experience, good kids attract good kids. So if there is anyone interested in joining the Symmes Valley Band, please feel free to contact me. The only main requirements: 1) Must be a student at Symmes Valley High School or Elementary (grade 7-12) 2) Must show up (in accordance with attendance policy). 3) Must try your best (effort is the key to success). NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!!!

In addition to lots of preparation from student leaders and staff, the band boosters have worked very hard as well. This is a very important part of keeping our band program going, and we need all the help we can get. There will be details at the booster meetings every second Tuesday of each month. Please take the time to read this handbook thoroughly and in its entirety a complete the parent/student signature page and return it to me. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. I care about this program and every child in it. I'll do whatever I can to answer your questions and/or be of help.

Matt Jarvis
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Band Goals and Mission

- (1) Bring **positive recognition** to the band by being the center of game day spirit by:
 - a. Sounding mature and strong
 - b. Marching clean with good personal demeanor
 - c. Adding more general effect (G.E.) to create more visual excitement and enhance our show
 - d. Play and march with electrifying energy in pregame, halftime, and on the way to and from the stadium
 - e. Create excitement in the stands with good playing and personal energy
 - f. Talk only positively to alumni, administration, faculty, students, parents and others outside our school community about the band
 - g. Do our best to master our performances in all aspects of music, marching, and personal demeanor

- (2) **Respect** leadership and one another by:
 - a. Showing courtesy to each other
 - b. Being friendly
 - c. Avoiding petty criticism and mimicking - in other words do your tasks so well that you provide such positive leadership that you motivate others to the same. Strive to lead others by being a good example!

- (3) **Enjoy** the year by:
 - a. Working toward excellence
 - b. Serving the school
 - c. Bringing positive recognition to ourselves and those who support us
 - d. Enjoying each other in the short time we have together
 - e. AVOIDING END OF SEASON “BLAHS” BY DEALING WITH IT POSITIVELY!
 - f. AVOIDING BAD GAME ATMOSPHERE!!!! Recognize that football is a game, no team wins them all forever, and ALWAYS react maturely.

- (4) The **BIG MISSION** is to be so good at the above that:
 - a. We continue to receive a growing support from our community.
 - b. We bring such positive recognition that administration, alumni, and other potential donors realize our needs and are willing to help.
 - c. We make the band a **vital** part of the school family so that the organization is respected and nourished for years to come.

Band Image

Symmes Valley boosters, staff, and administration have spent a great deal of time and money recently to provide a state-of-the-art learning environment and to project a highly polished image at all school related activities and in all departments. You provide a unique and vital service for Symmes Valley and your individual and collective appearance and behavior is important, both in rehearsals and especially at performances, no matter where we go or the event.

We are a band, a group of people uniformly striving for the same purpose. To do this, one may need to, at times, forego many individual choices, styles, personality traits, freedoms, and desires in order to participate. The uniform is part of this unity. Improper wearing of uniform (jewelry, jeans, socks, shoes), unruly behavior, lack of cooperation, obscene gestures, inappropriate or untimely cheering, and profanity are all examples of inappropriate behavior that should be avoided at ALL times, uniformed or not. Strict adherence to the Symmes Valley Student Handbook is also expected.

Game Day Image

On game days your band t-shirt is part of the official uniform and should be worn under the uniform at all times - no exceptions! Your uniform will consist of the band hat, band jacket, band pants (bibbers), long black socks, and black band shoes. **You are responsible for purchasing** the band shirt (currently \$7, but comes out of your \$40 camp fee), band shoes (currently \$35.50 through Kerr's Music World - we use a specific style so please don't purchase on your own from somewhere else unless you have checked to make sure the style is identical), and LONG black socks. No headgear will be allowed for uniformity purposes, unless it is for the purpose of keeping long hair up and doesn't show. Going to and from the stadium or stage performances, you should have your coat all the way on or all the way off, **NOT** half-way or unfastened. Pants/bibber straps should be on the shoulder at all times, not hanging off. The Symmes Valley Viking Band is one of an all-American demeanor. Individualized uniform pins (band medals may be allowed at director discretion), painted faces, and other deterrents from uniformity as a group should ALWAYS be avoided. Ladies should use minimal, tasteful makeup and ANY long hair should be neatly put up, under the helmet. Color guard will have their own hair/makeup standard - see your advisor for details. Sunglasses are not to be worn on the field or during a performance unless they are your regular prescription glasses (transitions).

Stadium Demeanor and Energy

The Symmes Valley Viking Band strives to be the center of football and basketball game day spirit and along with the cheerleaders, is the visible and audible focal point of spirit. We will play as often as possible. Ohio athletic rules prohibit playing while the ball is in play in any sport, but we will sometimes play in between downs and during timeouts. We also will strive to be considerate of other bands and take turns. **All band members should have a sense of urgency and get their horns up in a quick manner as well as have enthusiasm as a whole when the band is cheering on the team.** We also do not do individual cheers, use any profanity or obscene gestures, or do anything else to bring negative attention to the band. **THIS INCLUDES PLAYING**

YOUR INSTRUMENT WHEN THE FULL BAND IS NOT PLAYING, yelling off color remarks, obscene gestures, etc. **BE A POSITIVE LEADER BY EXAMPLE!** Public embarrassment, harassment of any kind, loss of self control, unexcused absence, and other negative or otherwise inhibitive behavior are all dismissible offenses. At director discretion, a member may be asked to “sit out” from a performance, which still requires attendance in uniform, with the band....or be entirely dismissed from band. These are serious consequences and will be reserved as a “last resort”, but because of the difficulty of what we do, we must uphold the highest standards for members of our group so we can rise to and maintain excellence!

Band Morale

The band director is keenly aware of and cares a great deal about band morale. There is a certain amount of physical effort required in all extremities of weather. It takes a great deal of focus, energy, and effort to be in a good band program and certainly, each of you should be willing to rise to that level. Most people are very cooperative and go the positive route. The worst thing that can hurt band morale is a few negative thoughts and attitudes. If you as an individual have any questions about anything, please feel free to ask your director or advisor for assistance or explanation. We want you to enjoy being a part of the Symmes Valley Viking Band, and a **good attitude is the primary ingredient**. Additionally, any signs of illness or unnatural fatigue should be reported immediately to your band director, advisor, or another responsible adult. We expect that there will be physical and mental challenges along the way, but positive attitude can only overcome normal difficulties. We want you happy and healthy!

Rehearsal Atmosphere

Because of the level of difficulty and unpredictable weather, rehearsal time is of the utmost importance. Rehearsals must be efficient, intense, and orderly. **You are expected to be on time, bring water, instrument/equipment, pencils, show charts, and ALL MUSIC EVERY DAY.** Strive to LEARN the shows as we go and do it with a high standard of excellence. We will strive to be prepared to use your time well and give you orderly, well-planned rehearsals. Band contest/football season can be long, and covers three seasons of weather in our area. Being prepared to rehearse in the weather and maintaining a positive outlook are core ingredients for enjoying the marching season. **Phones and other devices are NOT to be out and should be silenced during a rehearsal or a performance.** If a phone is out, or makes sound during a rehearsal or performance, we reserve the right to confiscate it and require it to be picked up by a parent at the end of the day. Having good, focused rehearsals that are free from distractions are also key to having a great season and performances!

Program Excellence

Each member of the Symmes Valley Viking Band is expected to participate and strive for excellence in the performance of the entire band repertoire and presentation of field formations. We will always strive for higher level (quality) performance. The Viking Band is more than a juke-box, or cheap entertainment, we are a group of musicians applying years of training, practice, and

expertise to perform and exhibit our skills and talents at the highest level possible. Each member's skill and contribution is vital. All performances are mandatory, and necessary to meet our goals!

Summer

All marching band members (marching band - select 7th graders, and ALL 8-12 band members) are required to attend summer band camp. A person failing to attend band camp may not be permitted to perform in the halftime/contest show, and may not be permitted to participate in extracurricular band activities. Transfer students, or new band members will be worked in at the discretion of the band director or sponsor. Conflicts, such as long term parental visitation, summer school, or other similar types of conflicts, should be brought to the director's attention in advance and as soon as is possible. If possible, these and other commitments should be scheduled so as to avoid conflict with your child's commitment to band (most courts will allow for support or requirements that support your child's activities and involvement in school groups such as band).

Family vacation and other activities should be scheduled around band to avoid conflict...they are not a valid excuse. The summer schedule will be released as early as possible so plans can be made. In general, you can expect most of June to be free with the possible exception of some color guard and percussion practices, and usually mid-July will host a week of percussion and color guard camp, and then two weeks of band camp that will fall sometime between late July and mid-August. Try to do as much of your other summer activities in June and early July to avoid conflicts. There is also a \$50 camp fee that helps to offset the cost of camp staff, show writing, uniform cleaning/parts, and covers the cost of your band shirt (additional shirts for family or extras may be ordered for \$7 each).

Uniform

Your uniforms are costly, high quality, and identify you as a proud member of the Symmes Valley Viking Band. Treat them with respect and pride.

- 1) The band director and sponsor will determine uniform for each performance.
- 2) Band members are responsible for properly storing their uniform and equipment safely in the designated areas. Slight alterations to uniforms, such as hems, are the responsibility of the individual, but if you need help, please ask one of our excellent band boosters for assistance and they can help you make arrangements for hems or other minor alterations.
- 3) There is a \$50 camp fee for camp staff and uniform cleaning/rental. This fee is due by the end of September. If financial problems exist, the band director should be contacted and arrangements can be worked out. We want you in band no matter what. We will always do what we can to help.
- 4) The field commander must purchase their own uniform, shoes, props, and other personal items.
- 5) The field commander should wear uniform to and from games unless otherwise instructed.
- 6) Uniforms are not to be worn to school or any other place other than a band activity unless for a specific reason decided by the sponsor or band director (for example, borrowing for senior pictures is acceptable with prior permission). Wearing band t-shirts on game day or before band contests or other performances is allowed and encouraged!
- 7) **The uniform is to be respected.** It represents the pride and hard work that goes into our band program, and they are rather costly. The uniform should always be stored and worn properly.

Improperly storing or wearing the uniform is a very serious offense and could warrant institution of demerits and other consequences. We are fortunate to have very sharp uniforms that we can wear with pride. Please ensure that your uniform is properly worn with fasteners fastened and everything in place each time you wear it, and wear it **WITH PRIDE!**

- 8) If a uniform is damaged or destroyed due to your actions or neglect, you will be responsible for the the cost of repair or replacement.

Transportation To/From Events

The school will provide bus transportation. We are very fortunate to have the level of support we have from our school administration and school board. While some schools have to fundraise just to pay for gas and a driver's time to bus to a competition or away games, we currently have board paid transportation support to all our events. All Marching Vikings members are required to attend performances by way of school transportation. An individual may ride home by other means of transportation as long as the parent contacts the band director personally by phone or in person and in advance. Notes can be helpful, but notes that cannot be verified will not be accepted. A phone call or personal visit from the parent must accompany a note. In addition to parental consent in advance and signing out, the student **MUST** be seen, by the band director or advisor, leaving **WITH** his/her alternate means of transportation from the event. You and your ride must come to the band director or advisor, sign out, and then be dismissed. In such circumstances, you are also responsible for making any arrangements to unload, clean, dry, or put away your equipment (ask a peer to do it).

If the bus passes the student's home on it's return trip, the bus may drop them off (at the director's discretion and only if it is requested in advance by the parent, and only if it's on our route). The bus will not alter its route or wait. The student must be able to get into the home. **The parent/guardian is responsible for ensuring that their child has transportation to and from the school for events.** Within reason and whenever possible, we will make every effort to predict departure and arrival times accurately so as to be respectful of your time, however, there may be occasions that we return earlier or later than predicted. Please plan accordingly. The director cannot take students home in their personal vehicle, nor should it be the director's responsibility or that of another student or parent. Leaving a child without a ride home is abandonment, and may result in police involvement.

Grading

As is appropriate, band members will be graded seasonally (first grading period is based on marching band performances, mastery of music and routines, and marching techniques - third grading period is based on a variety of assessments, both written and playing, and daily effort). Extra-credit may be awarded for seriously preparing and auditioning for All-County, All-District, and All-State. Class credit (1 credit) will be lost if a band member drops band class at any time during the school year.

All students registered for band will start with an "A" in the course provided they are in attendance at all rehearsals and performances (except for the one "cut" day - see attendance section below), put forth their best effort. There may be assignments throughout the year including, but not limited to, playing quizzes, essays, and formal summative assessments. These will influence grading in a manner similar to other classes, and will consist of point values appropriate to the importance of the assignment. Like other classes, band members cannot be allowed excessive tardies or

absences. If a student is late to class three times, they may receive lunch detention. Habitual tardiness will result in further disciplinary action and will affect your grade. **TARDINESS FOR GAME DAY OR A PERFORMANCE WILL COUNT AS A DOUBLE TARDY, AS WILL FAILURE TO HAVE THE PROPER GAME DAY/PERFORMANCE EQUIPMENT.** Excused absences must meet school requirements and appropriate documentation must be submitted IN ADVANCE. Any student receiving more than one unexcused absence will have his/her letter grade lowered one letter for each occurrence and, may be dismissed from band.

At the band director's discretion, a student may receive a failing grade of an "F" and/or may be prevented from participating in the Symmes Valley Marching Vikings Band for any one or more of the following reasons:

1. One or more unexcused absences from a game or performance
2. More than three (3) unexcused absences from rehearsals (including after-school rehearsals)
3. Public embarrassment to the school while representing the band: i.e. rude behavior, illegal substance abuse/use, destruction of property, or insubordination
4. Excessive tardies, habitual poor attitude and behavior, endangering/threatening to themselves and/or others, or other unseemly behavior(s)
5. Actions or neglect resulting in the damage or destruction of school, booster, or private property (i.e. instruments, uniform, music stands, etc.)
6. Failure to abide by the policies/expectations set forth in this handbook or the school handbook

Involvement In Other Activities

Due to the co-curricular nature of band (see description of co-curricular below), and the vital role each member plays, if conflict is unavoidable, the band and all auxiliary members are expected to put band first, above any other extracurricular activity. This isn't to say that a student can't be involved in multiple activities, in fact, we encourage and support it! That said, some conflicts may arise which cannot be avoided. Being excused from a band activity to participate in another sport or activity will be decided by the director or sponsor. In general, we will work to support each child's involvement in other activities such as sports. We will always do what we can because we know many of our exceptional young people are in multiple activities. In the rare instance that a compromise cannot be made, for example, a performance during the same time as ball practice, band should come first as it is a co-curricular class and each rehearsal and performance influences your grade. It's also important to realize that every member is especially key. Many sports players can be "benched" or may not get playing time, but the band is unique in that 100% of it's members are needed 100% of the time. There have been many examples in our area of athletes playing in band. Our coaches are very supportive of the band and we will make every effort to work with you! That said, you must realize that it's a heightened level of commitment for both activities, as you will likely have to split practice time. This means being prepared, both physically and mentally, for both activities and putting in the individual work at home to avoid getting behind. It's part of being an exceptional student!

Co-curricular

The basic definition of co-curricular is something outside of, but complementary to, the regular academic curriculum. For over a century, most American schools have taken a co-curricular approach to band. That is to say, it's a class, for which students receive a grade, yet it has necessary components outside of the normal school day that affect that grade. Band at Symmes Valley is no exception. Rehearsals and performances are absolutely necessary to what we do and our purpose as a band. If we did not perform, or have rehearsal outside of school to strive to refine those performances, we would be losing perhaps the most significant part of any school music program, the very part that pushes each student to invest in their own music learning. **NO PERFORMANCE IS PERFECT.** Yet, perfection is what we should all be striving for, constantly, in all our musical and non-musical pursuits. Thus, **ALL REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES ARE EXPECTED AND GRADED.** For possible exceptions, see below under "Attendance".

Fundraising

The band will have various fund raising projects during the summer and school year to pay for such expenses and camp staff and supplies, uniforms, instruments, music, etc. Each band member is expected to participate in these fund raising activities. Drumline, Field Commander, and Color Guard may find it necessary to raise extra money for special props, equipment, or other needs. This will be at the discretion of the band director and sponsor.

Money is due 2 weeks after the appropriate date (either 2 weeks after the conclusion of the sale period if product is readily available or 2 weeks after the product arrives and is deliverable to customers). If Instructed, money may be due up front, when orders are placed.

Failure to turn in fundraising money is a **SERIOUS** offense. Failure to turn it in within the required time is also serious. Either offense could result in withheld grades, demerits, and possible dismissal from band or station (i.e. Field Commander, section leader, etc.)

Attendance

Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is MANDATORY! For all absences, excused or unexcused, students and their parents must complete and return a **Band Absence Form**, available from the band director and posted in the band room. A copy of the band absence form is also included at the end of this handbook. You may copy as needed.

Being a part of any group involves certain individual sacrifices. This is **ESPECIALLY** true for performing groups. Much care is taken to avoid abuse of your time, but it is simply unacceptable to have an unexcused absence from a rehearsal or a performance. This not only will put you behind in terms of your learning, but in any group, especially marching band, you are in fact hindering the learning of others. Be respectful of your peers and teachers, and deliver on your commitment. If we learn marching drill, and if someone misses it, we inevitably have to completely redo the learning process. This is a huge waste of time. **Please understand that each and every**

one of you is a KEY part of the success of our group! Whether a rehearsal absence is excused (serious illness or family emergency) or unexcused, a note from the parents explaining the absence (band absence form) **MUST** accompany the student upon their return and be turned in to the band director. If a change has been made in the performance and the absent member doesn't know the new change, the band director or sponsor reserves the right to not allow the member to perform until they have satisfactorily mastered the change.

In addition to summer practice, we will have practice after-school throughout marching season (typically Monday-Thursday 3-5). These practices are important and mandatory. At the discretion of the band director, the rehearsal schedule may be altered (reduced or increased) as needed. In general, as we go through the season, we may reduce the practice schedule by one day a week, and after band contests are done, reduce it more or eliminate it entirely. We may need a periodic after-school rehearsal throughout the remainder of the year in addition to our standard concert band dress rehearsals as well as some practice for the Memorial Day Parade.

ATTENDANCE CONSEQUENCES:

Missing a performance:

Performances are fundamental to our purpose. This is a performing group and you are making a commitment that is both rewarding and demanding. Performances include football games, basketball games, parades, competitions, dress rehearsals, and concerts. Performances are one of the main purposes of having band as a co-curricular, and there are state and national standards that guide the curriculum of your musical learning. Those standards are heavily PERFORMANCE oriented. Thus, performances are a large part of your grade. There is no way to adequately provide an alternate assignment for a missed performance, thus, unless an absence from a performance is excused (death in the family, sudden and severe illness, or unavoidable extenuating circumstances), it will GREATLY affect your grade and standing. Games are worth 2/3 of a letter grade (A+ would be reduced to A-, A would be reduced to B+). Band competitions, school concerts, parades, and concert band ratings are worth one entire letter grade (A+ would be reduced to B+).

One unexcused absence from a performance: **appropriate lowering of your term grade** once and potential dismissal from subsequent events.

Two unexcused absences from a performance: **failing grade for the term** and potential dismissal from band.

THERE IS NO GOOD REASON TO HAVE AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE FROM PERFORMANCES. PLAN AHEAD AND BE PREPARED.

Missing a rehearsal:

Rehearsals are essential to our success. Although we have some class time, we simply must have after-school and summer rehearsals to achieve our performance goals. ALL members are EXPECTED to be at rehearsals and to be prepared.

Three unexcused absences from rehearsals: **lowering of your term grade by one letter** and potential dismissal from subsequent events.

Each subsequent absence from a rehearsal will result in lowering of your term grade by **one letter**. This means that even if you otherwise earn an "A", if you have six unexcused absences from a rehearsal, it will result in you getting a grade of "F" for that term.

There is no good reason to have an **unexcused** absence. Prior discussion with the band director will usually get you farther than just not showing up.

EXCEPTIONS: There are certain exceptions for attendance.

Doctor's excuse: A doctor's excuse is a valid reason for missing a rehearsal or performance. A doctor's excuse, or copy of one, must be submitted SEPARATELY to the band director, along with a band absence form. Don't just give one to the office! We simply do not have time to track down every absence and see if there is a doctor's excuse in the office. **YOU MUST BRING IT TO US!**

School function: It is expected that there will be several conflicts with practice schedules and other activities. Priority is given to actual events over practices. For example:

If there is a conflict between **sport practice** and a **band performance**, you are **expected to be at the band performance**.

If there is a conflict between a **sport match** and a **band practice**, you are **expected to be at the sport match**.

If there is a conflict between a **sport match** and a **band performance** (these should be very rare since we try to avoid all conflicts when scheduling events that we have control of), **you are expected to be at the band performance**. While every player is important to any team, there are no subs or second or third strings in band. 100% of its members are needed for 100% of the performances or it adversely affects the entire band. In addition, the co-curricular nature of band gives it priority in this rare and hopefully avoidable instance.

In BOTH cases, you should talk to both the coach and the band director IN ADVANCE! Don't assume that either is aware of the conflict. Never miss a practice without talking to the coach, and never miss a rehearsal without talking to the director.

Emergency: Sometimes, there are medical emergencies either in your family or that directly affect you in some way. While we would like to avoid these instances, sometimes they occur. Make every effort to inform us.

Death in the Family

Prior excusal at the director's discretion: In some cases, a student may be excused for circumstances not stated above. These instances require prior notice, and are at the complete discretion of the director.

IN GENERAL:

If the circumstance is a valid excuse from school, the Band Director will also excuse it. **All excuses will be at the discretion of the Band Director.** Appropriate documentation (i.e. a doctor's note and Band Absence Form) must be provided by the student or parent/guardian **TO THE DIRECTOR**. A copy can be made and presented if the original needs to be given to the school office, but remember, it is the student/parent responsibility (not the secretary's) to ensure that the Band Director receives documentation for an excused absence.

Demerits

**Demerits are an accumulating tally of any misconduct or unexcused absence.
Eight demerits is grounds for dismissal from band.**

Band members who acquire more than 3 demerits may be suspended from the next performance, but must attend the performance (in uniform, with the director), as well as all practices. If a member acquires 8 demerits, a conference will be held with the parents and Principal to discuss dismissal or withdrawal from the organization. The Band Director and staff will make the final decision on all demerits.

All demerits may be appealed to the Band Director and then the Principal

A band member, field commander, or color guard member may receive demerits for the following reasons:

- 1) Missing practice (unless for serious illness or family emergency upon director/sponsor discretion) - 2 demerits
- 2) Unsportsmanlike or embarrassing conduct, disrespect or insubordination, or obscenity of any kind. - 2 demerits (severe instances may be grounds for immediate dismissal from band)
- 3) Missing a performance (unless excused by director or sponsor) - 5 demerits
- 4) Leaving a performance early or arriving late (unexcused) - 2 demerits
- 5) Failure to notify director/sponsor of absence - 2 demerits
- 6) Improper uniform storage/wearing or disrespect/neglect of the uniform (see above) - 2 demerits
- 7) Not being in designated locations during designated times (for example, sitting anywhere other than with the band during a football game - with exception of third quarter breaks) - 2 demerits
- 8) Being late after the third quarter breaks or otherwise - 2 demerits
- 9) Fighting or harassment of any kind (verbal, physical, electronic), anywhere, with anybody - 3 demerits
- 10) Breaking any school rule resulting in disciplinary action from the main office. - 2 demerits
- 11) Habitual lateness for activities (unless excused) - 1 demerit
- 12) Being disrespectful toward the director, sponsor, staff, any teacher, booster, or parent. - 2 demerits
- 13) Failure to have instrument, music, equipment, props, or any part of the uniform during a performance. - 2 demerits
- 14) While in uniform, on school grounds, or at any function sanctioned by the school and/or band: "dating cuddling", public display of affection, or other unseemly behavior. - 1 demerit
- 15) Actions or neglect leading to the destruction of personal, booster, or school property. You will also be responsible for the cost of replacement or repair of the property.

Dismissal of a Band or Flag Corps member

A member may be dismissed for the following reasons:

- 1) Undesirable behavior associated with a school activity (i.e. skipping school, fighting, harassment, hazing, discrimination, stealing, cheating, being suspended or expelled from school, association with drugs, alcohol, tobacco use, insubordination toward any teacher, administrator, parent, or volunteer, or very poor/habitually poor academic performance.
- 2) Failing three school subjects
- 3) Failure to attend camp or summer rehearsals
- 4) Acquiring 8 demerits
- 5) Failure to abide by the rules set forth in this handbook
- 6) Failure to turn in all fundraising money or fees within the required time
- 7) Lapsing on or violation of a lease agreement with a music store and failing to return the instrument to them in the condition it was assigned
- 8) Habitual lateness to practice and/or performance
- 9) Habitual forgetting of props, equipment, or uniform accessories needed for practice. If a member loses, or is responsible for the destruction or damage of, any prop, equipment, or part of a uniform, that person will be responsible for the replacement of the lost, damaged, or destroyed article.
- 10) Quitting mid-year or mid-season, for any reason, is inexcusable and may result in prevention from participation the following year. Please understand that this is a commitment and each member is expected to see it through. Marching band, and band in general is an all-year activity, though we do have times of heavier intensity, such as marching season. It's also important to note that participation is expected from day one of summer practice through the Memorial Day Parade performance the following year.

Note: If a band member, field commander, or color guard member is dismissed or quits before yearbook pictures, or other pictures are taken, their picture will **not appear in the yearbook as a band member, field commander, or color guard member.

Special Note: It's very difficult to address everything that needs to be in a handbook and keep a positive tone throughout. Even in my short time at Symmes Valley, and in my prior experience, instances within the handbook are rare, and I believe that is in part to the phenomenal character prevalent in students who are involved in such important activities, such as band! I feel extremely proud to be a part of this group, and I'm thankful for each and every one of my students and their supportive parents and community members! You should be proud too! It's amazing what band students are able to do, and for the most part, band is a year-round commitment! Without the band, and the quality members in it, our school would suffer greatly and there would be a void where the band pride, commitment, learning, excitement, and yes, entertainment should be.

A very important part of being in any group is making sure you take away something from the experience. I believe that, with most things, you get out what you put in. Make the best of your

experiences in band and any other group, and remember to properly complete your work for other classes, practice, sleep, eat, drink water, rest (different from sleep), and have fun! You will foster strong relationships, build a stronger band program, set new precedents for future generations, and be a vital part of something bigger than yourself. See you at practice!!

The best part of any group or any experience is the people within it. YOU make the band what it is! Make it great!

**Viking Pride! Valley Wide!
Go Vikings!**

Band Checklist

In general, sticking to these things will ensure your success in band (and many other endeavors).

- Attend all practices and performances, and always do your very best
- Uniform, instrument, and equipment respected and cared for
- Behavior and demeanor are positive, productive, and respectable
- Continually strive to improve in our craft (don't skip at-home practice)
- Bring only positive recognition to our group, our school, and yourself
- Work together and replace excuses with effort
- Participate in fundraising and other projects meant to help elevate our
program
- Display commitment to the group and each other, in all regards
- Understand that band is year round, and our practice and performance
commitments for the "current year" run from the first summer practice
all the way through the Memorial Day Parade in the next calendar year.

SVHS Band Absence Form

A copy of this form must be completed and turned in for every absence from a rehearsal or performance, whether it's excused or not. Copies are available in the band room, or you may copy this one.

Name: _____ Date of Absence: _____

- Missed:**
- Performance (includes ball games, concerts, ratings, contests, parades)
 - Rehearsal (includes regular and special after school practices)
 - Other

Reason for absence (use appropriate details)

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Print Parent Name: _____

For office use only

Excused

Unexcused

Signature of Director/Advisor _____

Signature of Principal _____

Confirmation of Reading the Band Handbook

(sign and return to your school)

I, the undersigned, have read and understand fully the information and policies presented in this document. I intend to comply with any and all stipulations set forth in this handbook, and should I have any questions concerning band or school rules or guidelines, I will ask the band director or an administrator. I understand that membership in the Symmes Valley Viking Band requires compliance with the policies, rules, and guidelines presented in this handbook.

Student Signature

Grade

Date

Parent Signature

Date