

Vinton-Shellsburg High School
Instrumental Music
Department

2019-2020



*Exuding the patience, endurance, and
determination to succeed.*

Exuding the patience, endurance, and determination to succeed.

Vinton-Shellsburg High School Band Department

Philosophy Statement

In the Vinton-Shellsburg High School Instrumental Music Program, students will have, through active participation in high school band, the opportunity to perform, listen, and create a varied repertoire of music alone, and with others. Band participation will enhance the quality of life for each student through a learned appreciation and enjoyment of band music, a developed ability to experience and express emotion through band performance, and by nurturing musical skills which will open the door to lifelong musical, social, and travel opportunities. Performing music alone and with others will promote positive self-esteem, teamwork skills, discipline, and musicianship experiences unique to the talents and interests of each student. Individual lessons give students the advantage of learning at their own pace, and experience a curriculum unique to their musical needs.

Vinton-Shellsburg band students will refine high-level motor skills through technique development on their instrument and through marching technique development. Band students will perform in competitive and non-competitive arenas, enriching themselves and benefiting the social value and substance of the community. The band ensembles will promote student creativity and responsibility by offering student leadership positions by application, director appointment, or student vote. Students will experience world cultures through music of different styles, periods, and geographical locations of the world. In summary, the Vinton-Shellsburg High School Band will strive to promote cognitive, physical, social, and emotional growth. The structure of the curriculum will strive to do the following: provide the highest quality instrumental music education for each student, promote individual responsibility, promote excellence in performance, teach about other cultures, promote hard work and honesty, promote teamwork, use individual creativity and imagination, and most importantly, make music fun.

The vision of the director of the Vinton-Shellsburg High School Band is to provide a music education for all. This should include students, parents, other teachers, and school administrators. The Vinton-Shellsburg High School Band has the opportunity to support community events and other school activities. This organization will be a fun and quality organization, and one that will set high goals and expectations for every child.

BAND ENSEMBLES

SYMPHONIC BAND: The Symphonic Band involves students in grades 9-12 and is the main ensemble of the Instrumental Music Department. Performances include at least 5 per year, including the participation in State Large Group Contest, Band Extravaganza, Cabaret, Fine Arts Night, and graduation. Students will also be encouraged to participate in honor bands, All-State auditions, State Solo and Ensemble Festival, and other performance opportunities. The concert band will rehearse every day beginning after marching season is completed (late October). Symphonic Band rehearses 8:00-8:45 A.M. daily.

MARCHING BAND: The marching band at Vinton-Shellsburg High School is known as the Vinton-Shellsburg Viking Regiment. Its season begins with band camp in August and continues through mid-October. All enrolled students must participate in this ensemble. The marching band provides entertainment at home football games, and has performed at state marching contest, Marion Marching Invitational, Band Across the Prairie, 5 Seasons Marching Invitational, Waukee Marching Invitational, and participates in 2-3 parades throughout the year. The membership consists of a horn line, a percussion battery, percussion pit, and a color guard. Rehearsals begin at **7:20 A.M.** every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings, and begin at **8:00 A.M.** on Tuesday and Friday mornings. Students signed up for band acknowledge that if they are tardy to rehearsals, then they will be counted tardy to school. Marching band will conclude with the final home football game (late October).

COLOR GUARD: Students audition to be a member of the color guard in the spring. It is considered a privilege to be a member and extra rehearsals will be required to learn the routine. Practices generally occur weekly before marching band at 7:00 A.M.

DRUMLINE: Students audition to be in drumline in the spring, and will rehearse weekly throughout the summer. The drum line serves as the backbone of the marching band, and needs the extra rehearsal time to learn how to be one unit instead of eight individuals.

JAZZ BAND: The Jazz Band consists of saxophones, trombones, trumpets and a rhythm section. Performances include 4-5 independent festivals, including NEIBA Jazz Festival, IHSMA Festival, Tallcorn Jazz Festival, and Coe College Jazz Festival. Rehearsals begin at **6:44 A.M.** on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings. There will be sectionals scheduled when needed. **Membership will be determined by an audition process.** Auditions will be held during lessons or outside the school day. The jazz band will begin rehearsing after marching season.

PEP BAND: All members of the Vinton-Shellsburg High School Band are involved in the pep bands, which perform at the first half of football games and at selected home basketball games. All students are required to attend their pep band assigned performance dates. Students in conflicting school activities will be exempt from pep band. Students are graded on their attendance and participation.

Marching Band Information

Football Games: During home football games, the band members are required to wear their Marching Band or Colorguard uniforms. Exceptions will be made for those participating as football players and cheerleaders, who will instead march in their respective uniforms. Be prepared to perform regardless of the weather. If weather is too severe, the director may call off the band's performance, but we will still perform in light rain. The band performs The Star-Spangled Banner and the School Fight Song before the game starts on game days. The band is then required to stay in the stands and play the School Fight Song after every Vinton-Shellsburg score during the first half. At half time, the band performs its show music. After half time is over, students are required to return to the High School band room to **properly hang up their uniforms**. Once this is completed and their instruments are put away, they are free to leave. Students are allowed free admission back to the football game after their half-time performance.

Competitions/Festivals: Starting in late September, the band will compete at different competitions and festivals throughout the fall. Each competition and festival will be scheduled on a Saturday. During competitions, the Marching Band will typically stay after their performance is over to watch the rest of the bands in attendance compete. After all bands have finished performing, there is an awards ceremony that usually takes place around 10:00 PM. It is important that all students show good sportsmanship during other performances and throughout the awards ceremonies. If a student wishes to leave a competition or festival early with their parent/guardian(s), that parent must sign-out with the director. If a student wishes to leave with a friend's parent/guardian(s), the student's parent and the friend's parent must submit a signed note to the director **prior to departure for the performance**. Uniform for these performances can be found in the **Band Uniform** section of this handbook.

Parades: There are traditionally 2-3 parades throughout the course of the year that **ALL** band students (including pit members) are required to participate in. The homecoming parade is the first parade of the school year, and takes place the Thursday of homecoming week. Dress for this parade is Black and Gold Attire. This means students should dress up in black and gold to show school spirit for Vinton-Shellsburg. Extraneous items (such as black and gold beads, fake hair, face paint, etc.) are acceptable for **this performance only**. **Seniors** involved in other varsity activities participating in the parade have the choice of participating with the band or their respective activity (i.e. cheerleading, etc.) **The senior float is not an acceptable alternative to the parade**. We also perform at the Memorial Day ceremony. The last parade is the Party in the Park parade over summer. Students are required to purchase a tie-dye Marching Band t-shirt during band camp. This tie-dye shirt, along with khaki pants/shorts or jeans, white socks, and tennis shoes are the uniform for **everyone** at these and any other non-homecoming parade that we will participate in. The band performs the School Fight Song at all parades, and also plays Anchor's Aweigh at the Memorial Day ceremony.

Music Pass-off System (New 2014)

Everyone must check off their marching band music prior to the first competition. To pass off assigned material, the player must successfully demonstrate to the director his or her ability to perform it memorized. Every note and rhythm should be perfect, though standards will be adjusted to fit the musician's level. Freshmen are required to have one movement memorized; Sophomores are required to have two movements memorized; Juniors and Seniors are required to have all movements memorized.

Use of the Band Facility

The use of the band facilities before, after, and during school is a privilege. Students who abuse the facility will be disciplined accordingly. Any abuse or damage will be considered vandalism. There will be no horseplay, e.g., throwing things in or around the band room. All percussion and guard equipment is off limits to anyone not specifically designated to use them.

Practice

As with any activity, you get out of it what you put into it. Band will not be fun unless you practice. There are many values in the study of music as a discipline that transfer to other areas of life. Although this will not immediately happen, persistent practice will lead to enthusiastic, driven practice. Remember: "Perfect practice makes perfect!" Here is a suggested plan of study:

- Pick a set time each day
- Use a tuner for a portion of your practice session
- Have a non-boomy place of practice
- Increase dynamic range (work on *pianissimo*)
- Use our daily warm-up and think "tone"
- Increase endurance (15 minutes of full-tone playing)
- Play some form of scales at every practice session
- Increase range (highest note **with a good tone**)
- Take a break every 20 minutes
- Use a metronome for part of the time
- Work on technique (articulations, accents, etc.)
- "I will start with ___ minutes and increase to ___."
- Practice sight-reading

DEPARTMENT POLICIES

ATTENDANCE:

- 1.) Never assume anything. Check out a conflict with the director.
- 2.) A student will be counted tardy for a rehearsal or performance if he/she is not in his/her place with music and instrument ready at designated time.
- 3.) If it is necessary for a student to be absent from any rehearsal or performance, the student must provide a written notice signed by a parent in advance (1 week for a rehearsal/30 days for a performance). These excuses include family travel plans and direct conflicts with another official school event. If there are conflicts with another school event, the teacher of that event and I will work out a compromise. Emergencies will be accepted at the discretion of the director.
- 4.) You may NOT miss a rehearsal in order to make up homework, tests, or any other assignments for another class. The only exception to this is in rare instances where you miss another class because of a band event (i.e. honor band)
- 5.) It is the student's responsibility to advise his or her employer of all commitments within the department. Employment during a rehearsal or performance will be considered an unexcused absence (unless otherwise approved by the director).
- 6.) If a student is sick, he/she must call the director BEFORE a rehearsal or performance. An unexcused absence from a performance can result in dismissal from the ensemble and an F recorded for the course.
- 7.) If a marching band member will not be marching in a game for some predetermined reason, he/she is still to sit with the band. Exceptions will be dealt with at the discretion of the director.
- 8.) The director will call sectionals as needed. Most will be held before and after school. Attendance is required.
- 9.) **Performances count as 30% of your grade. If a student fails to attend a performance, a zero will be recorded for that event. WARNING: Failure to attend performances will result in a huge lowering of your final grade.**

HONOR BANDS

There are opportunities throughout the school year to audition for and/or attend Honor Bands. Typically there is a registration fee for those accepted, and for All-State there is a registration fee for those who plan to audition. The Band Boosters will cover this expense. However, if your registration fee has been paid and you decide not to attend, you will be asked to reimburse the Band Boosters the price of registration.

GRADING:

- 1.) Students earn letter grades for their achievement in the band department. Band is factored into student GPA.
- 2.) Technique lessons are required of all instrumental music students. Lessons will be held during study halls, before or after school, during school on a rotating basis, and during lunch periods. Students that have scheduled lessons during the lunch hour should try to avoid eating before playing. During the marching season, lessons may be held in the form of group sectionals run by the section leader and director.
- 3.) **Lessons** affect 30% of a student's grade. **Performance Attendance** determines 30% of a student's grade. **Class/Rehearsal Participation and Preparation** determines 20% of a student's grade. **Proficiency**, such as scales or music memorization, determine 20% of a student's grade.
- 4.) Every instrumental music student will have the opportunity for one lesson per week (8-9 Lessons per semester). Each attended lesson will be graded from 1 to 5 points, 5 being the best. Unexcused absences from a lesson will be graded as an F (0).
- 5.) Lessons may be made up as needed, but each lesson must be scheduled at least two days apart. In order to get credit for any make-up lessons, there needs to be evidence that practicing occurred between lessons. In the event that no practice has occurred between lessons, the scheduled make-up lesson will not be graded.
- 6.) Occasionally a student will not receive a lesson when scheduled because of special circumstances (teacher workshops, meetings, early dismissal, late starts, etc.) In addition, it must be understood that the director is responsible for many band administrative duties during the school year. Students will be excused from any lesson missed as a result of these types of conflicts and no make up will be required. This means that the student will be required to attend one less lesson than originally planned. It does NOT mean that the student will receive full credit for the missed lesson.
- 7.) Some types of pre-determined (by the teacher) extra credit may be available to students who wish to improve their academic performance. Students should NOT assume that extra credit will always be offered. To be eligible for this, a student must first have made a valid effort to earn points in the traditional manner (eg. Lessons, attendance, class assignments, rehearsal conduct). Otherwise, a student will not be eligible for extra credit. If offered, extra credit holds potential for slight improvement of a student's overall band grade (e.g. B+ to an A-).

LESSON ACHIEVEMENT SCORING RUBRIC

- 5 Clear evidence of practice/improvement of assignment. On time, cooperative, works hard, and has all lesson materials (good reed, book, assignment, instrument.)
- 4 Some evidence of practice/improvement of assignment. One point is taken away due to the student not being on time, being cooperative, working hard, or having all lesson materials (working reed, assignment, instrument.)
- 3 Little evidence of practice/improvement of assignment. Two points are taken away due to a combination of the student not being on time, being cooperative, working hard, and having lesson materials (working reed, assignment, instrument.)
- 1-2 No evidence of practice/improvement of assignment. The student attends the lesson, but without many lesson materials (working reed, assignment, instrument.) The student is also late to the lesson and uncooperative.
- 0 The student does not attend the lesson.

Student Lesson Book: Advanced Method Vol. I and II published by Rubank

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT GRADING RUBRIC

Each home performance is worth a total of five points. Points will be doubled at each away performance as there will be workshops and critique following each performance.

- 5 points Student has all uniform items (check the marching and concert uniform section of this handbook). Student arrives early to the performance. Student has all musical items (mutes, music, instrument). Student uses proper concert etiquette (stays for the entire concert and is quiet throughout). Student exemplifies the characteristics of superior musical performance by following all proper concert performance protocol including setup and tear down.
- 4 points Student has all uniform items (check the marching and concert uniform section of this handbook). Student arrives on time to performance. Student has all musical items (mutes, music, instrument). Student lacks certain elements of proper concert etiquette (does not stay for the entire concert or is not quiet throughout). Student shows some characteristics of superior musical performance, but fails to follow every aspect of proper concert performance protocol, including setup and tear down.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT GRADING RUBRIC (Cont'd)

- 3 points Student either does not have all uniform items (check the marching and concert uniform section of this handbook) or the student does not have all required musical items (mutes, music, instrument). Student arrives on time to performance. Student lacks certain elements of proper concert etiquette (does not stay for the entire concert or is not quiet throughout). Student shows a few of the characteristics of superior musical performance, but fails to follow most aspects of proper concert performance protocol, including setup and tear down.
- 1-2 points Student does not have all uniform items (check the marching and concert uniform section of this handbook) and the student does not have all required musical items (mutes, music, instrument). Student arrives late to performance. Student lacks certain elements of proper concert etiquette (does not stay for the entire concert or is not quiet throughout). Student shows none of the characteristics of superior musical performance by failing to follow any aspects of proper concert performance protocol, including setup and tear down.
- 0 points Student fails to attend performance.

PERFORMANCE MAKE-UP OPPORTUNITIES

Unexcused absences from a required performance will be counted as zero points in the grade book. You will ***NOT*** be allowed to earn points by completing a make-up assignment for an unexcused absence.

Excused absences may be made up for full points by completing an assignment at the discretion of the director. Unless otherwise stated, the assignment will be as follows:

MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENT: You will be given a video recording of the performance that you missed. You must watch this performance and write a one-page review. Focus on the aspects of the performance that you thought went well, as well as the aspects of the performance that you felt needed improvement. Be sure to listen to and comment on the band as a whole, and not just your individual section.

If you do not complete a make-up assignment, you will be given zero points for the performance.

PERFORMANCE OBSERVATIONS

Each student in band is required to attend two **instrumental** performances each semester. Performances required by the ensemble **DO NOT** count. This includes listening to other bands at Marching Band Competitions. In order to get credit for these Performance Observations, students will be required to keep a program from the performance and turn it in to the director before the end of the semester with the student's first and last name on the front of the program.

REHEARSAL PREPARATION/ATTENDANCE

Each student in band will earn one point each rehearsal for being in their seat on-time, having their instrument put together on-time, having all of their instrument parts, showing proper rehearsal behavior, preparing their music for rehearsal, and attending every rehearsal. Loss of this daily participation point can be caused by: Unexcused tardy or absence; Failure to follow the band rules.

BAND RULES!!!!

- 1.) Bring a pencil to every band rehearsal. Use it to mark your music lightly; do not destroy the music for the next group that plays it.
- 2.) No gum, candy, drink, breakfast, etc. during rehearsal or performances. This is a **no warning** offense. Water is the only exception.
- 3.) You must be in your seat and ready to play when the bell rings.
- 4.) During marching season, be ready at **7:20 A.M. SHARP**. Also, be prepared to march outside every day. The grass is normally wet and we may rehearse in wind, drizzle, snow, and/or extreme cold. Wear proper shoes (marching shoes or old tennis shoes) and warm clothing.
- 5.) When excused, put all music, instruments and equipment away properly. All wind instruments go in cases in the appropriate area. All percussion gets covered or neatly arranged.
- 6.) Only handle or play your own instrument (percussion instruments especially).
- 7.) Supplies and repairs should be taken care of outside of rehearsal time when possible.
- 8.) After rehearsal, please leave quickly and quietly so you won't disturb other classes taking place.

CONSEQUENCES

Consequences will depend on the severity and frequency of the problem. Possible consequences include (but will not be restricted to):

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| -Warning | -Letter/email home |
| -Detention | -Teacher/Student conference |
| -Lowered rehearsal attendance and participation grade | -Parent conference |
| -Removal from band | -Removal from school |

BAND UNIFORMS

Each student will be issued a marching band uniform (or guard uniform). The school provides the colorguard with tops, pants, poles, and flags; and everyone else with a garment bag, coat, pants, gloves, and hat (with hat box and plume). It is expected that the students keep the uniform clean. If damage occurs, the student will be held responsible. Replacement costs are very expensive, so take good care of your uniform (please see next page for prices).

Band Uniform Replacement Costs (2005 Listing Prices)

Uniform Jacket	\$188.32
Bib Trousers	\$78.29
Flat-Top Shako	\$36.73
Gold Plume	\$10.94
Sash	\$26.09
Drum Major Coat	\$272.24
Drum Major Sash	\$34.79
Embroidery Set-up	\$14.00

Band members need to provide a pair of black “Drill Master” marching shoes (which can be ordered from the director at band camp,) black socks, and a white t-shirt (with sleeves.) Black shoes, black socks, and white t-shirts are mandatory parts of the uniform and are to be worn at every performance that the band is in uniform.

When in uniform, you are representing the band and Vinton-Shellsburg High School. Students will remain in full uniform until the director specifies otherwise. Gloves may be removed and placed in trouser pockets when not performing. Any alteration from this due to heat or cold will be at the director’s discretion.

Marching Uniform Dress

School Issued

Coat	Plume
Pants	Black gloves
Hat	

Student Provided

Black socks	Black shoes
White T-Shirt	Shorts or Sweats (NO JEANS OR JEAN SHORTS)

These uniforms were purchased in 2005 and were extremely expensive. We need to make these last a LONG time. The community and school have donated a lot of money for these uniforms, and every precaution will be taken to protect them. Please see next page for how fines will be issued when dealing with the uniforms.

CONCERT UNIFORM DRESS

All students are required to wear **black dress pants** or **black dress slacks** accompanied with a **black belt** (*girls belt optional*). Boys must have **black socks** and **black shoes** while girls must only have **black shoes** (*open or closed-toed are permitted*). All students must wear a **black dress shirt or blouse**. Boys may accompany their shirt with a tie (*optional*).

NO Jeans, Shorts, or T-shirts will be permitted at any Symphonic Band performance.

BAND UNIFORM FINES

Students eating in uniform	\$5.00 (+dry cleaning)
Students neglecting uniform	\$5.00 (+dry cleaning)
*uniform on ground	
*uniform parts being misused	
*removing uniform without permission	
Students not wearing white t-shirt (with sleeves)	\$5.00 (+dry cleaning)
Students wearing jean shorts under uniform	\$5.00
Leaving without checking in uniform	\$5.00
Taking uniform without permission	\$3.00
Black socks	\$2.00
Black shoes (borrow only)	\$2.00
Lost gloves	\$1.50

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL STUDENTS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL MAINTENANCE AND/OR REPLACEMENT COSTS IF UNIFORM PARTS ARE DAMAGED DUE TO ANYTHING OTHER THAN NORMAL WEAR AND TEAR.

OTHER SCHOOL FEE INFORMATION

(New starting 2011-2012 school year)

ALL students involved in band that will be using a school owned instrument will be assessed a school rental fee of (\$60.00) for the school year. School owned instruments include ALL school owned woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. ALL colorguard members will be assessed a school rental fee for school owned poles, uniform, and flags (\$30.00) for the school year. All fees will be waived for students that are under the free and reduced lunch program here at the Vinton-Shellsburg Community Schools.

AWARDS

The 10,000 Point Club

The 10,000 Point Club is an honor awarded to students that show excellence in instrumental music. In order to accomplish this honor, students must acquire 10,000 or more points. Below is an explanation of how a student can earn this award. Members of the 10,000 Point Club will receive a band letter at the end of the year.

- 1.) 1000 pts. All returning students

Individual/Group Performance

- 2.) 1000 pts. Participation in State Solo/Ensemble Contest
500 pts. Division I for Solo Performance
250 pts. Division I for Ensemble Performance
250 pts. Division II or III for Solo Performance
125 pts. Division II or III for Ensemble Performance
- 3.) 1000 pts. Audition for All-State
1000 pts. Accepted for All-State
500 pts. Recalled for All-State
- 4.) 1000 pts. Per Honor Band attended

Jazz Band

- 5.) 1000 pts. For those who audition and are selected for the Jazz Band
(ONLY FOR: SOUND, SET-UP, BRASS,
SAXOPHONES, PERCUSSION, AND PIANO.)

Marching Band

- 6.) 100 pts. Per day attended of Preseason Marching Camp
- 7.) 1000 pts. Division I rating at State Contest
- 8.) 500 pts. Division II rating at State Contest
- 9.) 250 pts. Division III rating and lower at State Contest
- 10.) 100 pts. Attendance of extra sectionals that are not mandatory
- 11.) 500 pts. Per performance

Other Musical Activities

- 12.) 500 pts. Participation in Chorus
- 13.) 1000 pts. Participation at Summer Music Camps
- 14.) 1000 pts. Participation in Community Band
- 15.) 500 pts. For taking private lessons (outside of school lessons)
- 16.) 250 pts. For performances outside of contests
- 17.) 1000 pts. Paying and participating in V-S summer lessons

Officers and Extra Help

- 18.) 1000 pts. Holding a band student leadership position (section leaders, officers, and drum major)

- 19.) 10 pts. Per ½ hour service to the band. (This is in addition to regular duties and must have prior approval of the director.)

Concert Band

- 20.) 1000 pts. Division I rating at State Contest
500 pts. Division II rating at State Contest
250 pts. Division III or lower rating at State Contest

- 21.) 1000 pts. Completing the year.

Points will be awarded throughout the year at the director's discretion for good behavior, good attitudes, and hard work and effort.

Other Band Awards

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA AWARD: Presented to an outstanding Senior band member who has shown pride, devotion, and leadership throughout his/her years as a member of the V-S Band. Band members vote on the recipient of this award

LOUIS ARMSTRONG AWARD: Presented to an outstanding Senior jazz band member who has shown dedication to the art of jazz and greatly contributed, through leadership and understanding, to the high standards of the V-S Jazz Band. Jazz band members vote on the recipient of this award.

BAND LETTER: SEE 10,000 Point Club.

IBA AWARD OF MERIT: Presented to an outstanding senior band member that has demonstrated outstanding integrity, leadership, dedication, and loyalty to the band department. The band director selects this student.

ALL LETTERS OR OTHER AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN AT THE DISCRETION OF THE DIRECTOR.

Contract of Mutual Consent

I, the undersigned student, accept membership in the Vinton-Shellsburg High School Band Program and understand I am responsible for all policies set forth in the handbook. I fully agree to carry out my responsibilities to the very best of my ability.

Student Signature

Date

I, the undersigned parent or guardian, have read and understand the policies as set forth in the band handbook. I also grant full permission for my child to be an active member of the Vinton-Shellsburg High School Band Program. In addition, my child has full permission to attend all band functions. Furthermore, I understand that I must meet all financial obligations.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Type of instrument(s) _____

Manufacturer _____

Serial Number _____