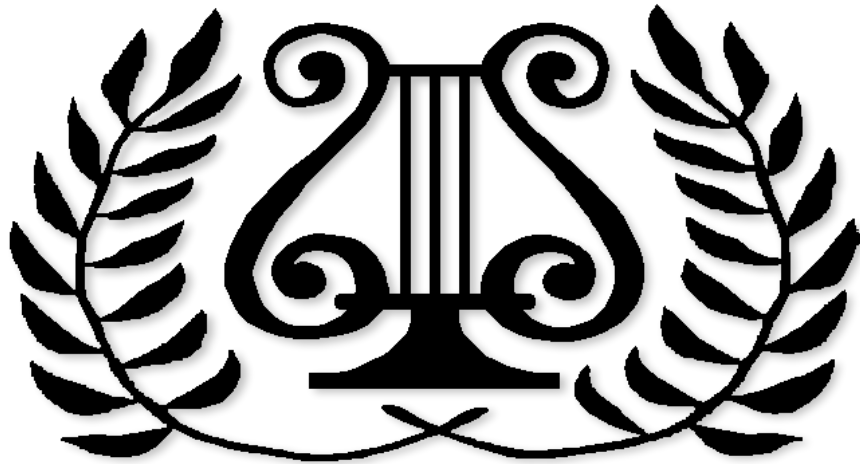


VINELAND
HIGH SCHOOL

*MARCHING
CLAN*



2016-2017
HANDBOOK

This handbook covers most of the major information that will be needed for a successful marching season. Don't hesitate to ask additional questions on topics that aren't covered in this manual. These guidelines will help you understand some of the workings of the Marching Clan.

I. STAFF & CHAIN OF COMMAND

The Marching Clan has a staff that is employed by the Vineland City Board of Education. Besides teaching the members of the Marching Clan, they also supervise the activities of it's members. Each staff member has a specific duty:

Director - (Mr. McDevitt) It is the job of the Director to oversee all of the activities of the Marching Clan. He is responsible for the entire program. He maintains accurate records, keeps the membership and their parents informed, advises the Band-Aides Organization, chooses his staff and sees to the daily running of the Marching Clan.

Assistant Director/Percussion Instructor - (Miss Bosco) The Assistant Director/ Percussion Instructor is second in command and will take over the responsibilities of the Director if it becomes necessary. She is proficient in the areas of Marching, Music, and Percussion and will work in those areas throughout the season.

Music/Marching Instructors - (Mr. Sikorski/Mr. Feliciano) The Music/Marching Instructors are responsible for working on the music and marching portions of our program. They will maintain consistency throughout the sections of the band. They will also musically and mentally prepare the band for performances.

Front Line Instructor - (Mr. Thomas) This Instructor is responsible for working with the pit members of the program. He is also the Assistant Percussion Instructor and is proficient in marching technique.

Color Guard Instructor - (Mrs. Lock) This instructor is responsible for teaching and maintaining the Color Guard. She is proficient in Marching and Equipment Handling and will work in these areas throughout the season.

Students should remember that all staff members are responsible for all members of the Marching Clan, not just their particular section. Every staff member is qualified to work with every section and all members should respect them accordingly.

II. BAND OFFICERS

Elected Officers - These are elected by the membership during the final week of Band Camp.

Senior Officer - This person is a Senior Musician. He/She presides at all officers' meetings and all student-run band meetings, and may call extra meetings if necessary. His/Her primary job is to keep Senior members informed.

Junior Officer - This Junior Musician's primary job is to keep Junior members informed.

Sophomore Officer - This Sophomore Musician's primary job is to keep Sophomore members informed.

Freshman Officer - This Freshman Musician's primary job is to keep Freshman members informed.

Auditioned Officers - These officers earn their position through audition.

Drum Major - (Vinnie Pontari) This person is the primary officer when the band is on the field. He is also responsible for getting the Band on and off the field.

Band Captain - (Nastasi Mignott) This person is the primary officer when the band is in parade. She will also

assist the Drum Major as needed.

Band Lieutenant - (Kayla Lamkin) - This person's primary duty is to assist the staff and students during rehearsals. She will work with students that need extra help to perform at their best.

Guard Officer -(TBD) This person is the primary officer when the Color Guard is working separately from the Musicians. This officers is chosen by the staff.

Appointed Officers -These officers are appointed by the Band Director or staff members as needed.

Truck Crew Captain - This officer is responsible for supervising the crew that loads and unloads the Marching Clan's equipment truck and prepares our practice areas before rehearsals.

III. ATTENDANCE

Rehearsals

Attendance at rehearsals is necessary for the group to continue to improve. If it becomes necessary for you to miss a rehearsal because of *illness, religious observance, or death in the family*, you must inform the director. Voice Mail in the band room is always available, as is the directors email (wmcdevitt@vineland.org). Please be courteous and let the staff know, so we can prepare for rehearsals. Don not send a message with a friend. **Work is not considered an excused absence.** A parental note must be presented to the director immediately following an excused absence. The note must include:

- 1) the date of the absence
- 2) the reason for absence
- 3) a parent's signature

If the absence is unexcused, the staff will meet to decide if the individual is prepared and able to participate in the upcoming activities of the group. **Anyone that misses a rehearsal jeopardizes their participation in weekend activities.** Remember that the director and staff will be deciding each case individually, taking regular attendance and individual readiness into consideration. School policy is in effect for all activities. If you are not in school during the day, you do not participate in school related activities that evening. Students that do not attend the final rehearsal before a performance will be suspended from performance.

Performances

It is understood that students will not be absent from performances. If a student is suspended from performance for missing rehearsals, they still must still be prepared to attend those performances based on the decision of the staff. Continued absences, for any reason, will result in dismissal from the organization.

IV. SCHEDULE/WEBSITE/REMIND

All information that is needed for a student to be successful in the program is posted on the VHS Marching Clan Website (www.vhsmarchingband.org). Monthly schedules of rehearsals and performances are posted with ample time for arrangements to be made. During the Fall season, Weekly Schedules are posted on the website. Each weekly schedule includes all report and return times for the week along with additional information like uniform changes. Remember that the Marching Clan has activities after football season. Follow the schedules and keep up-to-date with the current schedules. Check the website often. Changes are made as soon as they are known.

All Students and Parents should sign up to receive messages via "Remind". This free service allows the Band Staff to communicate to all families through texts and emails. Instructions for sign up will be distributed during Band Camp.

V. UNIFORMS

Every member of the Marching Clan will be issued a uniform. This uniform is issued for the entire school year. It is the responsibility of each member to see that the uniform is cleaned and kept presentable. When the uniform needs to be cleaned, you must take it to GARDEN STATE CLEANERS. You will be responsible for the cost of the cleaning. If alterations become necessary, you should be refitted for new uniform parts.

It is everyone's individual responsibility to be sure that uniforms are hung up correctly after a performance.

There is no fee for the uniform; however, it is each member's responsibility to see that the uniform remains in good condition. Members will be responsible for purchasing certain parts of the uniform (shoes, socks, gloves, T-shirt). If the uniform becomes damaged due to neglect or misuse, it is the responsibility of the person to whom the part was issued to replace the part or parts. **Each member** is responsible for the parts that are issued to them. At the end of each member's participation in the Marching Band, the complete uniform must be returned.

There are no facilities to change at performances. You will therefore need to be prepared to change in public using the procedure that we describe. Every member will be responsible for a "Band Bag". In this bag, which will come with you to every performance, you should keep your shoes, socks, gloves, a pair of jeans and anything else that you will use in performances. At times, uniform parts may be removed after performances. These times will be decided by the director.

There will be spot inspection of uniform parts. If it is possible to fix the part at that time, it will be fixed. If an immediate repair is not possible, the member will have until the next performance to repair the problem. If the problem is not fixed, the member will not perform. The inspection will check: cleanliness of all uniform parts (including shoes and gloves), proper wearing of parts, proper color and length of socks, and proper transportation and storage of the parts.

VI. EQUIPMENT

Instruments that are used by the Marching Clan are to be stored in the bin room. Remember that this is a storage area, not a locker area. Use the trash can that is directly outside of the room. Use this area for storage of instruments only. School owned instruments will be issued by the director based on availability. Repairs that become necessary due to neglect or misuse will be the responsibility of the student that signed out the instrument. If your instrument needs repairs, tell your director immediately. Don't try to make repairs yourself. All equipment that is used by the Marching Clan will be transported on our equipment truck. Small instruments (piccolos, clarinets) may be carried on the buses. No instruments are to be played on the buses.

VII. PERFORMANCES

Every performance is important, and should not be taken lightly. There are no performances that are less important than any others. After each performance, you will receive a critique from your staff and peers. Our one standing goal is to improve each performance.

Pep Rallies - Pep Rally uniform (for everyone) is jeans, sneakers and your band T-shirt. They are public performances. You should be on your best behavior in front of your peers. It will be the responsibility of every individual student to make up class work that they miss when they attend pep rallies.

Football Games - Every football game runs the same. Once you fall into the routine, it will be easy to follow. During the third quarter, members will be able to use the rest rooms and purchase refreshments and then return to the Band section of the bleachers. All members must have all refreshments consumed and be prepared to perform by the 2:00 mark of the third quarter. Lateness will result in the loss of your break privilege at the next game. When in the stands at games, students will sit in an assigned seating position. Guests are not permitted in the band's formation. Remember that you are performing from the time that

you step off the buses or arrive at the stadium, until the time that you step back on the buses or leave the stadium.

Competitions - When we compete, we are trying to gauge our improvement on a standardized scale. Students and parents must remember that when we compete, we are being judged on that evening's performance. The judges do not attend our rehearsals, so we have to show them our improvements in performance. After each competition, we will critique our performance, and discuss how our scores relate to past scores and others' scores. We will also discuss judges comments. After your performance at a competition, you will sit in the stadium as a group and be respectful to the remainder of the performances. Our main competitive system is the Cavalcade of Bands. When we do compete in a different system, the system will be explained before we go. We will have sessions to hear judges tapes, and watch videos of the performances. Competition happens on a field, and nowhere beyond that. After a competition is over, all of the competitive aspects between individuals should end also. You have to finish like winners just like you begin like winners.

VIII. BAND-AIDES

The Band-Aides of Vineland, Inc. is a support group for the Vineland High School Marching Clan. The support of every parent is encouraged. The Band-Aides organize fund-raising projects to help Marching Clan members earn money towards their Individual Account. This Individual Account, which is the property of the Band-Aides of Vineland, is mainly used to defer the cost of the Extended Field Trip. Notice is given, through the website, about upcoming meetings and projects.

Any money that is fund raised in the name of the Marching Band, must remain in this account. It cannot be transferred to other accounts in the school.

Over the years, a courtesy has been extended to families allowing them time to pay off trips. Unfortunately, that has accounted for some rather large deficits in the Band-Aides account. Because of these large balances, this courtesy will no longer be extended. Any student that has a negative balance on their account at the time that the initial trip deposit is due will not be allowed to participate on the extended field trip.

IX. TELEPHONE

The band room telephone number is 794-6800 x2539. There is voice mail on at all times. Families should remember that the Band Staff cannot leave a rehearsal or performance until after every student has left the premises. Students should alert their rides when we are on the way back to the school after a performance. This will allow the staff members with long rides home the opportunity to leave shortly after we return.

X. SCHOOL RULES & ELIGIBILITY

All school rules apply to all band functions. Whenever you are with the band, you are representing the school, the school district and the city of Vineland. Behavior should reflect the pride that you have developed for this organization and what you represent to your community.

In order to remain a member of the Marching Clan, you must remain eligible for extra-curricular activities according to school policy. That includes:

- 1) Less than 7 days suspension in the past year
- 2) No policy time on record
- 3) You must pass at least 27.5 credits in the previous year

Students that are ruled ineligible by the school will be dropped from the program. The Extended Field Trip is an extra-curricular activity for all members, and all must meet the eligibility requirements to participate.

XI. MARCHING CLAN TRADITION

The Marching Clan is not a set of individuals. It is one unit that pulls together for similar purposes. We have become one large family. Once a member of that family, you remain there forever.

CONGRATULATIONS ! As a member of the Vineland High School Marching Clan, you are carrying on a proud tradition that started in 1931. Thousands of members have preceded you, and thousands will follow, but everyone leaves their individual mark as a member. You may be remembered by others because you played well, or marched well, or because you were funny, or because you became a good friend, but you will be remembered. You are continuing to carry on a tradition of excellence in performance. This tradition many envy, but few find the courage to pursue. Hold your head high and be proud of yourself and your accomplishments, because you are a member of the

Vineland High School **Marching Clan**