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# Blue Pride Band Handbook

2010 - 2011

Matt Young, Director of Bands  
Vinita High School

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# Welcome Back!!!

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Hello! I'm so glad that you've chose to participate in the Vinita High School Blue Pride Band this year. I'm looking forward to great things for the band this year and hope you share in my excitement!

In order to make sure you know what is expected of you, and to make sure you understand the rules and procedures that will be followed, I have prepared this handbook for you. I ask that you please read through this handbook, have your parents read it, then sign the form in the back and return it.

Again, I'm very excited to have the opportunity to work with you this year. I hope you are as ready as I am to get down to work and start a great year for the Blue Pride Band.

Sincerely,

Matt Young  
Director of Bands

## **Calendar and Schedule Policy**

Students will be provided with a calendar at the start of the school year. Any preexisting conflicts with a scheduled event should be discussed with the director as soon as possible. If you have a prior commitment (including family events, doctors appointments, other school activity, etc.), you must discuss it with the director and provide documentation from a parent by August 19 or it will be unexcused! In cases of inclement weather, never assume that the event is cancelled. Until you hear from the director or a member of the student leadership team, the event is still on, and you should arrive at the band room at the assigned time.

## **Attendance and Participation Expectations**

Your attendance and participation in rehearsals and performances is necessary to the success of the Blue Pride Band. Also, your attendance plays a large role in determining your grade. Any absence from a rehearsal or performance should be discussed with the director in advance to be excused. Here are some examples of valid and invalid excuses.

<b><u>EXCUSED</u></b>	<b><u>UNEXCUSED</u></b>
<p>Illness</p> <p>Death in the Family</p> <p>Pre-arranged conflict (must have been scheduled before receiving calendar and approved by director)</p> <p>Ineligibility only if not due to zeros and the student shows proof of after school tutoring or other efforts to bring their grade to passing. <b>IF YOU ARE INELIGIBLE DUE TO ZEROES AND/OR HAVE NOT ATTEMPTED TO RECEIVE TUTORING OR OTHER ASSISTANCE FROM THE TEACHER, THE ABSENCE WILL BE UNEXCUSED.</b></p>	<p>Skipping</p> <p>Forgetting</p> <p>Employment Conflicts</p> <p>Disciplinary Suspension</p> <p>Club meeting not previously discussed with the director</p> <p>Make-up tests that could have been made up at another time.</p> <p>Appointments made after receiving notice of the band activity (including dentist, optometrist, etc.)</p> <p>Trips or appointments made in disregard to a band activity you knew about</p> <p>Any conflict not cleared with the director ahead of time.</p> <p><b>DO NOT ASSUME.</b></p>

Only serious illness or death in the family will be considered excused without prior approval. A **parent must call** the director prior to the bands departure in either case. **A written note from a parent must also be provided** upon the student's return if they miss a rehearsal or performance. The director reserves the right to consider any unusual circumstances when deciding if an absence should be excused or not.

## **Grading Policy**

1/3 Tests – Playing tests will sometimes be done live and sometimes using SmartMusic or other recording technology. Grade will be based on accuracy of notes and rhythms, musical expression, tone quality, posture, carriage, and other factors important to a musical performance. Tests may include but are not limited to scales, technical exercises, excerpts from the band's current literature, or written tests. Deadlines for supplies, forms, etc. may sometimes be counted as a test grade.

1/3 Rehearsal Participation – Students will receive from 0-10 points each rehearsal based on their participation. Points may be deducted for:

Unexcused tardiness (2 points for each 5 minutes). On time means all equipment out and in position to begin rehearsal, not walking in the room, getting an instrument out, or changing into uniform.

Failure to have all equipment (Instrument, music, pencil, reeds, valve oil, mutes, etc.) (5 points for instrument, 2 points for other needed equipment).

Disrespect for or carelessness with school equipment or facilities (directors discretion).

Lack of respect for band staff, chaperones, student leaders, or volunteer helpers.

Intentional disruption of the rehearsal (directors discretion)

Inattentiveness, laziness (directors discretion)

Gum, candy, food, drinks (other than water) (directors discretion)

Actions unbecoming a member of the Blue Pride Band (directors discretion)

1/3 Performance Participation – Students will receive from 0-10 points for each performance based on their participation. See rehearsal participation for possible reasons for loss of points (failure to have instrument or full uniform will result in a zero for the performance, as this will leave you unable to perform). NOTE: the tardiness applies to all times you are assigned a time to be somewhere – on bus after a meal, back after 3rd quarter, etc.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCE FROM A PERFORMANCE WILL RESULT IN A “D” FOR THE COURSE. TWO UNEXCUSED ABSENCES FROM PERFORMANCE WILL RESULT IN A FAILING GRADE FOR THE COURSE.

Auditioning for an honor band or participating in a solo or ensemble contest will add 2 percentage points to the students final grade. Your primary instrument for MEOBDA does not count as this is a required audition. You will receive 2 percentage points for each additional instrument for which you audition for MEOBDA. Making an honor band or receiving a superior rating on a solo or ensemble will add 5 percentage points to the students final grade. NOTE: signing up for a solo, ensemble or audition is not enough. Students who sign up but do not adequately prepare will not be allowed to audition or perform in these events nor will they receive credit.

## **Uniform**

Each student will be issued a jacket, pants, hat and gloves. Care of these items is the students responsibility. Students should be aware that uniforms are very expensive (the cost to replace a uniform would be in the neighborhood of \$500).

Students are expected to provide:

Shoes - \$25.00 – If you already own a pair of band shoes (all black speedsters, dinkles, mtX, and drill masters are acceptable), you may use them. Any other shoes must be approved by the director. Used shoes are available for free in the bandroom and are first come first serve. By August 16, you must have either ordered shoes or shown the director your old shoes. Money is due by August 26.

Black Socks – No ankle socks.

Band T-Shirt – Payment due by August 26. Must be worn on game days and at contests when not in uniform. One is required, as we often have a game on Friday and a contest on Saturday, it isn't a bad idea to get 2 if you wish. Uniforms should look good on the student and on the hanger. When a uniform is hung correctly it will look good all season long. Often the uniforms finish a performance damp with rain or sweat. If the uniform is not hung up correctly, it will "dry" in that condition and look bad the next time it is worn.

The basic steps to hang up a uniform are:

- A. Pants first. Turn the pants upside down, aligning the seams and the pleats. All four seams should match (seams are the line that is sewn down the inside and outside of the pants leg). The 4 pleats should hang completely straight and flat (the pleat is the crease in the front and back of the leg). You should be able to hold the pants from the bottom of the legs and see the uniform hanging flat and straight. When you get this right, you'll know it. If the seams and and pleats do not match, the uniform will never hang straight.
- B. Place the pants over the hanger and pull the legs down so that the bottom of the pants hangs about even with the shoulder straps. If one side hangs much longer than the other, the pants will not hang correctly.
- C. Jackets next. If you are looking at the uniform, the open side of the hanger should be on the left. This way, the uniforms will easily hang facing the same direction. This makes finding the uniforms next time easier.
- D. Zip the jacket ALL the way up and hook the clasp. Zipping the jacket up allows the jacket shoulders to hang and dry on the large hanger correctly (see #3 above).
- E. Hang your jacket on the bus, in the trailer, or in the uniform room as is appropriate or you are instructed. Uniforms should not be left hanging out in the bandroom at any time. To facilitate the storage of all uniforms, the uniform closet should never be used as a changing room.
- F. Hats and hat boxes. Storing your gloves in your hat box is a pretty good idea. Storing 5 or 6 pairs of dirty gloves and socks, candy, and food in your hat box is probably not, emphasis on NOT. Love notes found in hat boxes will be posted on the Band web page.
- G. Plumes are fragile, They should only be handled, inserted, and removed from the hats by the metal base. They should be returned to the plume bag immediately after a performance. Be very careful to insert them the correct direction.

## 2010-2011 Vinita Band Handbook

It is a privilege to wear the Blue Pride Band uniform. Make sure you have all parts of the uniform at all performances. Keep your uniform cleaned and dressed. If your uniform does not meet the standards set by the director, you are subject to being removed from a performance or not traveling with the band. This uniform is a symbol of pride and will be worn accordingly. Jackets should be completely zipped (with exception of choke) or off. When jackets are off they shall be hung or folded as instructed. Most students choose to wear light weight shorts with their band T-shirt under their uniform, giving them the option to remove it at appropriate times (with director permission). If a band member is seen wearing the uniform incorrectly at any time, they will be subject to disciplinary measures, lowering of grade, and/or losing the right to wear the uniform. Band uniforms are not to be worn except at Vinita band events. Here are some DO's and DON'TS that will help you and your uniform look great at all times:

- DO: Remember your band T-shirt, black socks and marching shoes each time you will be wearing your uniform.
- DO: fold or hang your jacket as instructed when the group is allowed to remove them. Everyone's should look the same
- DO: wipe off your shoes after each performance. Use shoe polish of necessary.
- DO: Always wear your band shirt under your jacket. If we remove jackets, everyone should still look the same.
- DO: Bring your own bands and clips and bobby pins to keep your hair in your hat.
- DO NOT: Remove any material from the uniform if alterations are necessary.
- DO: Transport your uniform in a garment bag and your hat/shoes/socks/gloves in the garment bag back pocket. Every time!
- DO: Hang your uniform bag on the hangers after changing at a performance. This will make finding it easier.
- DO NOT: Store your uniform in the garment bag. This will cause it to mildew and get that "funny" smell.
- DO: Take extra time and care when hanging up your uniform. Pants hang folded on the crease, not the seat.
- DO: Always store your shoes/socks/gloves in the garment bag back pocket.
- DO: Clean your socks. No, really. I've seen some I thought were going to walk on their own at the end of the year. Seriously, that's just gross.
- DO NOT: Attempt to wash and/or dry your uniform jacket at home. They must be dry cleaned. Your black bibbers may be machine washed. Wash them alone, not with other garments.
- DO NOT: wear bulky shorts, jeans, or pants under your uniform even if it is cold! Thermal underwear might be necessary later in the season but is worn close to the skin. Jeans and shorts, other than the thinnest soccer type shorts, do not work. Jeans or other long pants are never to be worn under your uniform. Ever.
- DO: Follow these guidelines for hair, makeup, and jewelry. Hair must be completely up inside your hat. If you need hair clips and bands ask, but preferably take responsibility for this ahead of time. No face paint or glitter while in uniform. None. Ladies no excessive makeup - if any at all. No earrings (nose rings, lip rings, tongue rings, fill-in-the-blank rings) - none, not even tiny, little ones. You can wear them after the performance.

## **General Travel Policies**

When you are traveling with the Blue Pride Band, you represent yourself, your home, your band, your school, and your community. Your conduct at all times must represent the above in the best possible manner.

All band and school rules and regulations are in effect for the duration of the trip. Additional rules pertaining to a particular trip may also be issued. Misconduct or violation of these rules will place your future with the Blue Pride Band in jeopardy.

In addition to usual rules, there are rules and procedures necessary when traveling relating to the busses.

**BE ON TIME!!!** Promptness is absolutely necessary. The bus will leave Vinita on time. I don't play the game of "tell them we'll leave at 8:15 so we can actually leave at 8:30." That is unfair to those who exercise responsibility. Point deductions for tardiness begin at the time you are told to be there, not the departure time. A train is not an excuse for tardiness. You've lived here long enough to know it's a possibility. That just means you need to leave early enough to get stopped by a train and still be on time.

**TO BE EARLY IS TO BE ON TIME, TO BE ON TIME IS TO BE LATE, TO BE LATE IS TO BE LEFT.**

Board the busses only when told to do so. Nobody will board the bus until all equipment is loaded. Seating will generally be by seniority, however, if you make an underclassmen move, you must remain in the seat you take. The director or a chaperone may ask any student to move at any time for any reason.

You are personally responsible for your own equipment. Before we leave, you must know that you know that you know that your instrument, uniform, music, and everything else you need is loaded.

For each event where we travel, a group of students will be assigned as a loading crew. These students will be responsible for assisting the equipment managers in placing equipment on the trailer and unloading at the performance site.

Only the equipment managers and assigned loading crew for the event will be allowed on the trailer. Percussion, tubas, bari sax, uniforms, and pit equipment will be loaded on the trailer. All other instruments ride under the bus.

Load your instrument under the bus or take it to the trailer as appropriate. Take your uniform to the trailer. Hand it to the loading crew when asked. Do not leave the trailer until you see it loaded. Don't just lay it by the trailer and assume someone will get it. Do not get on the trailer if you are not on the loading crew.

You must travel with the band to all events. You may return home with a parent. Your parent must see the director and sign you out before you leave.

Do not get off the bus at the performance site until instructed to do so. The loading crew will get off first. **DO NOT USE THE EMERGENCY EXIT.**

Unless otherwise instructed by the director, travel uniform must be worn at all times not in uniform.

When we get home, do not leave until you are released by the director. Students will not be released until everything is put away, and the bus and trailer are clean.

You must have a medical information form signed by a parent or guardian on file with the director before you may travel with the band. Being unable to travel because you have not turned one in will count as an unexcused absence.

I suggest that you not bring any kind of radio or CD player on the bus. It could be stolen while we are away from the bus, and the school will not be responsible for loss, theft, or damage. If you do decide to bring a radio, CD player, game boy, etc., you must have headphones for it and use them. All radios, CD players, and bags will be left on the bus during the performance (rare exceptions may be made by the director in extraordinary circumstances). You are there to perform and all that you should have is what is necessary.

The drum major will be responsible for taking roll. All talking and other noise must stop while roll is being taken so that roll may be done quickly and efficiently. Upon arrival, do not get out of your seat until instructed to do so. Remain quiet and listen for instructions then unload as instructed.

## **Football Games**

Seating in the stands will be assigned prior to the game. You must stay in your place at all times except 3rd quarter. Only band students are allowed in the band seating area. Friends and family may sit nearby, but do not invite them to sit in the band area. You must pay attention to the director and the drum major and be prepared to play anything at any time. NO FOOD OR DRINK (other than water) will be allowed in the stands at any time you are on duty.

You will have third quarter off. However, you may not leave the stadium, and you must remain in uniform. You must be back in your assigned seat, ready to play the fight song when the buzzer sounds the end of the third quarter. All food should be finished and trash disposed of prior to the end of the third quarter. Any student late will not have 3rd quarter off the following week and will lose 2 points from their performance grade. CONCESSION STAND LINES ARE NOT AN EXCUSE FOR BEING LATE!

DO NOT PLAY ON YOUR INSTRUMENT (or anyone else's) OR ALLOW ANYONE TO PLAY YOUR INSTRUMENT INDIVIDUALLY UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO DO SO BY THE DIRECTOR.

Be supportive of all the other activities going on (football, cheerleaders, dance). Pay attention to the game, cheer, join with cheerleaders, in general, contribute positively to the game day atmosphere.

### Home Football Games

Arrive at school early enough to take anything you need in the stands (such as water, possibly an extra coat when it gets cold, stands for percussionists, cases for woodwinds if rain is possible) to the stands before call time. Roll will be taken at this time. Make sure you go to the restroom before you fall in. There will be no restroom breaks until the end of the halftime performance.

### Away Football Games

I normally plan to arrive 45 minutes prior to kickoff. This will allow us time to unload and for students to use the restroom without being rushed, and allow time for us to find seating for the band. As soon as you are dressed and have your instrument, you should report to the stands. You are late if not in the stands 20 minutes prior to kickoff (this will be modified by the director if we are later or earlier than anticipated, or if the stands are particularly crowded). Only you and your instrument should come to the stands. Everything else should be left on the bus. This means no bags, no hat boxes, and no cases (woodwinds may be allowed to bring cases if rain is predicted).

## **Other Performances**

Several pep rallies will be held during football season. The Blue Pride Band will usually perform at these pep rallies. All members of the Blue Pride Band are expected to play at pep rallies unless told otherwise by the director. Band members are expected to be supportive of other student groups and participate in pep rally activities. These are performances and will be graded as such.

In the fall, we will perform at the OSSAA regional marching contest as well as a few pre-regional contests. In the Spring, we will perform at least one pre-district contest, OSSAA District Contest, and State contest if we qualify. Details on performance times will be made known to you as soon as I know. As time allows, we will try to watch other bands while at the contest. While in the stadium or auditorium at a contest, be respectful to any group that is performing, watch attentively and quietly. Do not enter or leave the stadium or auditorium while a band is on the field or on the stage. Be respectful of all students and staff from other programs. At a marching contest, bands in formation always have the right of way. Do not walk through other bands ranks. RESPECT THE EFFORTS OF STUDENTS FROM OTHER SCHOOLS: Do not talk during their performance. Do not enter or leave an auditorium or bleachers during another band's performance.

We will participate in local parades, and possibly other parades as announced by the director. These are required performances.

Concerts will be held on dates to be announced by the director. Normal concert time will be 6:00. These will be required performances.

## Acknowledgement Form

We have read and understand the Blue Pride Band 2010-2011 Student Handbook. We agree to follow the rules and expectations outlined in this handbook.

We have also received a copy of the calendar. We agree to notify the director by August 26 if anything we already have scheduled that conflicts with required dates. We also agree not to schedule any conflicts (such as doctors appointments, orthodontist visits, etc.) on performance dates.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_