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# Vista Ridge High School Band

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*"Commitment usually means giving up convenience, going the extra mile, inviting personal discomfort, embracing confrontation, sacrificing instant gratification for the mission at hand. There are no miracle solutions. Excellence is achieved through commitment."*

*~Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser*

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## *2024-2025 VRHS Band Policies and Procedures*

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## VRHS Band Addendum

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## *Foreword*

The success of any organization is dependent upon the spirit, pride, leadership, teamwork, dedication, and cooperation of its members. Certain rules, policies, and procedures are necessary so that the overall goals of the group are met, and the welfare of each individual member is best served.

By accepting membership in the Vista Ridge Band, you are agreeing to perform to the best of your abilities and work together with the band staff in making this year's band the finest musical organization that our combined efforts can produce. In order for this to occur, students will need to be responsible, attentive, respectful, have a positive attitude, and follow the LISD Ten Ethical Principles. The directors will do their best to ensure that every student will be provided the opportunity to be successful, regardless of their ability as an incoming student or of their career ambitions following graduation.

The Vista Ridge Band staff has developed this handbook to familiarize each band member with general operation and procedures of the Vista Ridge Band and standards by which all band members are expected to conduct themselves. The handbook is not intended to be all-inclusive, as every possible situation and question cannot be predicted in advance; however, a thorough knowledge of these materials is essential to the smooth operation and success of the band this year.

## *Goals and Objectives*

See "Goals and Objectives" section in the [LISD Extracurricular Fine Arts Student Handbook](#).

## *Communication*

See "Communication" section of the [LISD Fine Arts Student Handbook](#).

## *Conduct/Expectations*

See "General Conduct and Expectations" section of the [LISD Fine Arts Student Handbook](#).

Additionally:

Vista Ridge Band Addendum concerning Conduct/Expectations:

Band is a full-year commitment. Discontinuing participation in the program within the current school year is not an option unless approved by the band staff. Any such discussion should involve the band staff via an in-person meeting. Email communication is not acceptable

Once a student has registered for band via the online band registration form in the spring, any decision to leave the program prior to the beginning of school must be communicated via an in-person meeting with a director. Email communication is not sufficient.

Band members will observe all policies set forth by Leander ISD, in addition to the following, as they pertain to the instrumental music setting:

General Guidelines

- Any behaviors, in both public and private events, that are not representative of good citizenship, as perceived by the band staff, may result in the student's dismissal from the activity at hand as well as the band program. This also applies to the actions of student leaders in both public and private events.
- All students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the [Ten Ethical Principles](#) at all times.
- Display of profanity, temper, flagrant violation of rules, etc., will not be tolerated. Individual behavior during a band function is a reflection of the group.
- Students will follow directors' instructions and procedures at all times.
- Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area 10 minutes before the listed start time with all equipment, including music, pencil, instrument, and all supplies to rehearsals daily.
- Students will keep hands, feet, and other objects to themselves.
- Students will not use or play on equipment they do not own without permission from a director.
- Students will not touch, handle, borrow, or use anyone else's instrument, uniform, or personal belongings.
- Students should request permission to speak by raising your hand and waiting to be acknowledged.
- All rehearsals are expected to be silent so that our time will be utilized wisely and as efficiently as possible.
- When allowed in the band hall, either before or after school, students will not disturb any rehearsal in progress.
- Students will respect the property of others and return their equipment to its proper storage place when not in use. Students should keep their equipment in the designated storage area and keep said storage area clean and neat in

appearance. Students who demonstrate great difficulty with this may lose the privilege of having a storage area in the band hall.

- Students will not deface or mark on music stands, chairs, walls, etc.
- Students will not write on dry-erase boards without permission from a director.
- Students will utilize their assigned storage slot/locker for instrument cases during rehearsals. Cases should not be brought into rehearsals unless requested by a director.
- Students will refrain from correcting fellow students in a pedagogical manner. The directive for any band member is to be the best possible individual performer as possible, and all energy should be directed in their personal performance and preparation.

## *Digital Citizenship*

See "Digital Citizenship" section of the [LISD Fine Arts Student Handbook](#).

## *Sexual Harassment*

See "Sexual Harassment" section of the [LISD Fine Arts Student Handbook](#).

## *Due Process*

See "Due Process" section of the [LISD Fine Arts Student Handbook](#).

## *Financial Obligations*

See "Financial Responsibilities" section of the [LISD Fine Arts Student Handbook](#).

Additionally:

Vista Ridge Band Addendum to Financial Responsibilities:

It is the philosophy of the Vista Ridge High School Band that no student should be denied the privilege of band membership due to financial hardship. For options in meeting financial obligations, parents should contact the Director of Bands.

### **Fair Share Fee**

All Vista Ridge Band members will be responsible for this annual fee. The purpose of the fee is to help with the various expenses that are necessary to run a quality band program that are not fully covered by the school district. These include but are not

limited to such items as clinician services, contest entry fees, printing specialty items, general supplies, marching band design coordination, charter bus rentals, social activities, and more as set forth in the approved Vista Ridge Band Booster budget.

### Meal Fee

This fee covers summer band meals, pre-game meals, and meals at full band contests. It also covers meals at select social events throughout the year.

### Uniform Cleaning and Maintenance

This fee covers routine cleanings of the marching band uniform. Other costs include alterations and repair associated with maintenance.

### Misc. Supplies

This fee is part of the overall band fee - includes, but not limited to, various supplies such as lyres, flip folders, and raincoats.

### Assessed Fee/Student Apparel

Fees listed below are approximate and may vary from student to student. *Assessed fees are NON-REFUNDABLE once the order for these items has been placed.*

- **Marching Shoes:** This is a required item that must be purchased through the band. All marching band students must have the approved black marching band shoes. No other shoe will be acceptable.
- **Show Shirt, Band Jersey and Shorts:** These are required items that must be purchased through the band. Casual uniform, worn at pep-rallies, informal concerts/events, and underneath the uniform for games and contests.
- **Water Jug/Juguzzi:** This is a required item that must be purchased through the band. All marching band students must have the same cooler for uniformity. Sharing water is not allowed for health reasons.

### Equipment Usage Fee - \$130 for the year

This fee is for students with district-owned instruments and all percussionists. This fee is to offset the cost of chemical cleaning and minor repairs for the end of the school year. For percussionists, this fee helps offset the cost of heads and mallets. This fee does not cover damage due to negligence (accident or otherwise). This fee is not collected by the band. Parents will pay for this fee through the school district.

## Winter Guard

Winter Guard begins at the conclusion of the Marching Band Season. Expenses may vary from year to year. These fees are not included at registration fee assessment, and payments can spread over multiple months. Additional fees may be assessed for the purpose of overnight trips, but will be communicated well in advance.

## Spring Trip

The concert bands and/or color guard may take a trip in the spring. (Varies)

## Fee Refunds

Band fees will be paid at May registration and throughout the summer for the following year. Fee refunds will be given in compliance with the online registration form that each family completes and agrees to at May registration. The overall band fee is non-refundable after registration is complete in May.

## Fee Delinquency

Any student who still owes money towards organization fees must pay those fees or sign up for an auto debit plan prior to signing up for the Spring Trip.

## *Fundraising*

See "Fundraising" section of the [LISD Fine Arts Student Handbook](#).

## *Care of the Band Facilities*

See "Care of Facilities" section of the [LISD Fine Arts Student Handbook](#).

## *Attendance/Punctuality*

See "Attendance Responsibilities" section of the [LISD Fine Arts Student Handbook](#).

Additionally:

### Vista Ridge Band Addendum concerning Attendance:

In order to have and maintain a high-quality band program, attendance from all members is essential. While the VRHS band follows all school and district policies and procedures, the following additional guidelines outline the attendance procedures and policies for the VRHS band. These attendance guidelines also apply to activities held

outside of the school day. Grades are given for punctuality and attendance. Additionally, consequences and interventions related to attendance and punctuality will be subject to the consequences and interventions on the last page of this policy and procedures document.

### Attendance

- Members are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances. This includes outside of school rehearsals, class rehearsals, sectionals, masterclasses, clinics, pep rallies, concerts, contests, and/or meetings.
- Healthcare appointments:
  - Summer Band Camp: Secure all health check-ups (vision, dental, otherwise) and needs in the summer months before summer band camp starts. Critical new material is covered daily, and any absences will put students behind. If completely unavoidable, appointments during summer band camp days should be in the afternoon and limited to a singular absence.
  - School year:
    - Outside of school marching rehearsals: Do not schedule appointments of any kind during afternoon band rehearsals. These are the only opportunities for the full components to rehearse together. By UIL rule, we are afforded limited outside-of-the-school day hours for marching band, so we will need to use that allotment as responsibly as possible.
    - Marching season class time: Early-week class time rehearsals (Monday/Tuesday) are “install” days. This means that the material covered is likely completely new or a change to the current show. If a class-time appointment is unavoidable, the end of the week would be better for your student and the band as a whole. When possible, use advocate and lunch times, and we would appreciate band class not being the “go to” for scheduling appointments. This is a group activity, so student absences affect the full group and not just the student missing.
- Refer to the [Vista Ridge Band Calendar](#) for scheduled rehearsal and performance dates/times.
- Excusal from any rehearsal must be approved through the Director of Bands and must be requested in writing. Absences from rehearsals must be requested at least 1 week in advance if they are not due to illness or family emergency. Non-emergent rehearsal absences not requested at least 1 week in advance will be denied.



- Excusal from any performance must be approved through the Director of Bands and must be requested in writing. Absences from performances must be requested at least 1 month in advance if they are not due to illness or family emergency. Non-emergent performance absences not requested at least 1 month in advance will be denied.

### Punctuality

- For all events, "On time" within the Vista Ridge Band Organization and Program is defined as:
  - Arriving with enough time to store personal items, gather materials, retrieve & set up instrument(s), and prepare mentally for rehearsal/performance; AND,
  - Being set with all instruments, equipment, supplies, and music ready to play no later than 10 minutes before the official start time of rehearsal.

### Absences and Tardies related to Academic Tutorials

Students are afforded a daily academic tutorial advisory period (Ranger Time) and outside of school opportunities which do not conflict with normally scheduled marching band rehearsals, therefore missing before or after school rehearsal for the purposes of tutorials or make-up work will be considered unexcused. A major percentage of each student's grade is counted toward before and after school co-curricular rehearsals. The Vista Ridge Band Staff will be monitoring student attendance and each student's band grade will reflect accordingly.

### Tardiness

Students not in their designated area at the appropriate time will be marked tardy. A tardy will be converted to a mark of absent 15 minutes after the rehearsal begins.

### Unexcused Tardiness

Unexcused tardies will be subject to the consequences and interventions on the last page of this policy and procedures document.

### Unexcused Absence

Students not present at the appropriate time without appropriate communication will be marked absent. Unexcused absences will be subject to the consequences and interventions on the last page of this policy and procedures document.

Students who have an unexcused absence may be subject to one or more of the following consequences at the discretion of the directors:

- Make up missed time.

- Loss of spot as a primary marcher.
- Loss of marching privilege for one game.
- Sit with a chaperone during game, will not perform in stands.
- Loss of attendance privilege at one game.
- Removal from the marching band and loss of physical education waiver.

Parents will be notified immediately.

Missing a “Dress Rehearsal” (the day before a performance) for any reason, may be subject to temporary loss of performance status.

Special note: Students have one afternoon free per week during the marching band season. These days should be used for appointments and routine professional visits. During the concert season, students will generally be responsible for only ONE weekly section rehearsal and group rehearsals as needed. Thus, students will have ample days available for tutorials and appointments.

### Excused Absences

Absence due to personal illness requiring medical attention, death in the family, or other extenuating circumstances (approved by the director) may be considered for excused status. Students who are continually ill may be required to provide a doctor's note releasing them from participation in order to ensure the well-being of the child and to reduce concerns of the band directors. Excessive absences of any kind (excused or unexcused) from class or rehearsals outside of the school day will result in loss of performance status and/or removal from performance opportunities. This action is not meant to be punitive; the band staff reserves the right to make such changes when doing so serves the best interest of the overall performing group.

## *Daily Supplies*

The following list is what each student should plan to bring to the appropriate rehearsal and/or performance. Other items may be added:

- All issued music in an organized black binder
- Pencil
- Instrument
- Tuner and Clip
- All supplies relative to their instrument
- All marching related equipment (during marching season)
  - UDB app on a charged phone (may bring portable chargers)
  - Lyre/folder
  - Water Jug (with juguzzi)
  - Other marching equipment as needed (could vary from year to year).

Missing supplies will result in behavioral consequences as determined by a director. Habitual loss or lack of having these necessary supplies will be subject to the interventions listed on the final page of this policy and procedures document.

Approved instruments (for non school-owned instruments) and mouthpiece/ligature setups should be approved by the Director of Bands. Private lesson teachers may make recommendations after consulting with an VRHS band director.

#### Flutes

- Tuning and cleaning rods
- Cleaning cloth
- Key oil
- Screwdriver Set

#### Clarinets

- Mouthpiece cap
- Three good playable reeds. Vandoren V-12's are the approved reeds.
- Reed guard (plastic, with rubber bands to hold reed in the guard are preferred)
- Key oil (Case Storage)
- Bore oil (Home Storage)
- Cleaning swab (silk handkerchief style, with covered weight)
- Cork grease

#### Saxes /Bass Clarinet as applicable

- Mouthpiece cap
- Three good playable reeds. Vandoren is the approved reed.
- Reed guard
- Neck Strap (Bass Clarinet players included)
- Pad and neck saver

#### Trumpet

- Valve oil (Al Cass)
- Polishing cloth
- Slide grease

#### French Horn

- Valve/Rotary oil - (Al Cass - Marching Horn) (Holton Rotary - Concert Horn)
- Polishing cloth
- Slide grease

#### Trombone

- Slide cream
- Spray Water Bottle
- Polishing Cloth

- Slide grease

#### Baritone/Euphonium

- Valve oil (Al Cass)
- Polishing cloth
- Slide grease

#### Tuba

- Valve/Rotary oil - (Al Cass –Sousa Valves /Holton – Concert Rotors)
- Polishing cloth
- Slide grease

#### Percussion

- Stick/Mallet bag
- Practice pad

#### Color Guard

- Flag pole, including accessories (provided by the district)
- Rifle (if applicable, provided by the district)
- Electrical Tape
- Gloves

### *District-Owned Instruments*

LISD will provide a limited number of instruments for student use. These instruments include highly expensive instruments such as the bassoon, oboe, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, french horn, bass trombone, euphonium, tuba, and general percussion equipment. This equipment is generally purchased by the school district for student use because of its extremely high expense. Thus, all district owned equipment must be handled with optimum care. Students failing to take proper care of their school-issued instrument may lose the privilege to use such instruments.

The following is a list of general procedures for district-owned instruments:

- LISD does not provide insurance for individually owned or district-owned equipment. It is required of all students utilizing district-owned instruments to provide insurance coverage for the instrument that has been issued to them. Students will be held responsible for all district-owned instruments issued to them. This responsibility will include fire, theft, accidental damage, abuse and general maintenance not incurred through normal use.
- Students and parents must sign an instrument checkout form before the student can use the instrument.

- Each instrument will be issued in good playing condition. Each issued instrument will be checked and cleaned prior to issue. Students are expected to maintain their issued instruments accordingly.
- The band member is financially responsible for all equipment and/or materials checked out to him or her.
- All equipment and materials must be kept in their proper storage location when not in use.
- LISD will assess a fee for routine (end of year) cleaning and maintenance of district-owned instruments. This fee will be collected through the campus "EdPay" online system.
  - a. NOTE: this fee does not cover removal of dents or other student-responsible repairs
    - i. Any repair needed due to student negligence will be assessed at the time of repair, payable to the Vista Ridge Band Booster Organization.

### *Special Note*

District-owned instruments are not to be treated as "free" instruments. Basic supplies must still be purchased, and repairs must still be made just like personally owned instruments. Please strive to treat these instruments as if they were your own. All LISD-owned instruments exceed \$2,000 in value.

## *Grading Guidelines*

LISD band programs have instructional objectives that relate to the mandated Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for grade level subjects or courses. These objectives are aligned to address the academic skills needed for successful performance in the next grade or next course in a sequence of courses. Assignments, tests, projects, classroom activities, and other instructional activities are designed so that the student's performance indicates the level of mastery of the instructional objectives. The student's mastery level of these objectives is a major factor in determining the grade for a subject or course.

Students will be expected to meet the responsibilities for each band class as determined by the director. Since band is an academic music class with some extra-curricular activities attached, the band student's grade will reflect achievement in both curricular and extracurricular areas.

A band member's six weeks' grade will be determined from the following items: students' daily preparation and participation, individual testing, performances, and extended classroom activities such as sectionals and before/after school rehearsals. For more specific information, pertaining to how a student's grade is determined, please consult the director.

- *Daily Participation* 30%

Includes: Instrument, Music, Supplies, Tuners, Class Work, Attitude and Participation

- *Performances and Tests* 40%

Includes both written and playing tests, concert attendance and contests. Students will be graded on supplies, punctuality and concert uniform.

- *Instructional Extension of Class* 30%

Includes: Marching Band Rehearsals, Sectionals and Extra Rehearsals

The following list is provided to give students and parents examples of items that can be subject to grading. Additional assignments may be given any time.

#### Participation

- Make Music Assignments - rehearsal preparation and skill development
- Practice Records - at home practice and accountability (Spring Semester)

#### Assessments

- Performances/Games - attendance and successful participation
  - See "Performance/Rehearsal Requirements" section for all stipulations to earn full credit
- Pass-offs/Performing Test - graded playing/performing assignments which could be live or recorded and submitted Google classroom (or similar)

#### Co-Curricular Rehearsals

- Sectionals - attended on time and prepared
- Masterclasses - attended on time and prepared
- Rehearsals - attended on time and prepared
- Any type of required, outside-of-the-normal-school-day rehearsal

## Eligibility

See "Eligibility" section of the [LISD Fine Arts Student Handbook](#).

## Academic Expectations

All Vista Ridge Band Students are expected to maintain continuous positive academic standing at Vista Ridge High School.

Positive academic standing is defined as:

- Grades of 75 or higher at all times in all classes
- Completing and turning all assignments on time to all classes (including band)
- Communicating with band staff and academic teachers immediately when the above requirements are not met

Students who fail to meet the above academic standards/expectations after the first two weeks of school are subject to the consequences below:

- Attend mandatory tutorials outside of band rehearsal times (and/or advocate)
- Probationary status
  - Suspension from performance and/or contest participation (marching or concert)
- Removal from Primary Marching Band placement and reassignment to Visual or Secondary Performance roles

Students who fail to meet the above academic standards/expectations by receiving a grade lower than 70 on a report card are subject to the consequences below:

- Attend mandatory tutorials outside of band rehearsal times (and/or advocate)
- Probationary status
  - Suspension from performance and/or contest participation (marching or concert)
- Re-assignment to a lower concert ensemble
- Removal from Varsity Marching Band placement
- Removal from Vista Ridge Band Spring Trip
  - Student may not be eligible for refund of trip payments if contract deadlines have passed, resulting in potential financial loss
- Limitation of future concert and marching band placements and/or re-assignment to a lower ensemble, including production or secondary performance role assignments.

## ***Mandatory Tutorial Guidelines and Process***

There are various times within the school year when academic eligibility is of the utmost importance. Even one student failure at the wrong time creates considerable undue stress on the remaining members of the group. During these times (primarily fall marching band season) and when appropriate, the Vista Ridge Band will utilize a Mandatory Tutorial system designed to help students maintain good academic habits:

- Be more aware of their overall academic performance in all classes
- Learn to be an advocate for their learning and progress

- Become more responsible, communicative, organized, and timely regarding their class work
- Maintain good academic standing so that they can remain a helpful asset to the rest of the performing group

A grade report is sent to directors once a week beginning in week 2 or 3 of the school year. The grade report is based on the assignment grades that have been entered in the online gradebook. For the purposes of this process and unless otherwise specified by a teacher, the grade listed in the grade report is what is used to determine current academic performance.

In our experience, the #1 reason for most low grades is failure to complete and turn in assignments. In this instance, a student should use as few tutorial times as needed to complete the assignment. Our teachers' time is valuable, and tutorials should primarily be used to better one's conceptual understanding of class material.

Depending on the class, a student may have very few grades each grading period. Because of this, a borderline average of 75 to 70 is enough to trigger mandatory tutorials. Performing poorly on a test or neglecting to complete or turn in an assignment in this situation can cause a student to fail, even when their grade has been satisfactory most of the grading period. Ultimately, the grade range used to determine whether mandatory tutorials are necessary is at the discretion of the band staff.

The process for mandatory tutorials is outlined below:

- The student will receive a mandatory tutorials form on Thursday or Friday the preceding week that tutorials are to take place.
- The student will be told which class or classes tutorials are needed in.
- Tutorials will be required at least once daily until the grade is improved above a 75 or until the next grade report comes out. If multiple classes are in question, the student will prioritize which class gets more tutorial attention, but ALL required tutorial classes must be attended. If the teacher of the class in question deems that the grade is above 75, they will sign on the tutorial sheet to notate that tutorials are no longer needed.
- The completed tutorial form is to be turned in prior to school starting on Game Day.
- Any student who does not attend the required tutorials daily, complete the form correctly, or does not turn in their tutorial form will be given a warning the first week. Subsequent failure to follow through on the tutorial requirement will result in compounding consequences:



- 2nd week: Loss of performance for the week (game or similar), split rehearsal time with production/secondary member if the student is a primary performer
- 3rd week: Not allowed to attend the game, split rehearsal time with production/secondary member if the student is a primary performer
- Beyond: Not allowed to attend the game, loss of performance position
- Even if the above guidelines are met, in the final two weeks of the grading period, any student with a grade below 70 that does not rise to passing by game day may not attend that week's game at the discretion of the band staff.

## *Travel Guidelines*

See "Transportation" section of the [LISD Fine Arts Student Handbook](#).

## *Auditions and Ensemble Placement*

All audition results and resulting placements are based on collected data from student's regular participation which includes but is not limited to:

- Completion of regularly assigned coursework (pass-offs) in band class (punctuality matters and is considered as part of the criteria)
- Marching season participation (attendance, preparation, commitment)
- Consistent preparation and participation in All-Region/All-State hearings and master classes
- Consistent preparation and participation in instrument choir/ensemble rehearsals and performances
- Consistent preparation and participation concert band rehearsals
- Consistent preparation and participation in YAC preparation and performance processes
- Attendance at preparatory camps leading to auditions
- Positive academic standing, defined as continuous maintenance of at least a "C" average in all classes
- Leadership appointments

Other guidelines:

- Students are required to audition for participation in the Vista Ridge Band

- Directors will serve as an evaluator during auditions
- Auditions may be live or recorded at the director's discretion
- Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony and Symphonic Winds are double blocked classes. This is consistent with all programs across Leander ISD
- Concert Band is the only single block option. This is consistent with all programs across Leander ISD
- Whenever the color guard program features multiple Winter Guard Ensembles, auditions will occur after the conclusion of marching season. All of the above listed data will be considered within the realm of color guard.

## *Concert Ensembles*

### Wind Ensemble and Wind Symphony

Selection into these groups is by audition, director recommendation, and demonstration of academic proficiency. Members of the Honor Band will participate in the TMEA Region Band process, and 9-12 grade members of the Wind Ensemble will prepare region music individually and attend fall masterclasses. Members of both ensembles will also participate in UIL Marching Contest (based on assigned role), Vista Ridge Young Artist Contest (required), and UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest (contingent on successful pass-off completion). Members of this group will have a 90-minute section rehearsal, an assigned hearing time outside of the school day, and weekly MakeMusic assignments. Both ensembles will give numerous performances both on and off campus. Participation in Graduation Band is required of all members of Wind Ensemble and Wind Symphony - no exceptions. In UIL activities, these groups will be designated as the "Varsity" and "Non-Varsity" band.

### Symphonic Band

Selection into this group is by audition. This group will participate in UIL Marching Contest (primary or production status only), Vista Ridge Young Artist Contest (required), and UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest (contingent upon successful pass-off completion). Members of the Symphonic Band will participate in the TMEA Region Band process by invitation. Members of this group will have a 90-minute section rehearsal, an assigned hearing time outside of the school, and weekly MakeMusic assignments. This group will give a variety of performances. In UIL activities, this group will be designated as the "Sub-Non-Varsity" band.

### Concert Band

Selection into this group is by audition. This group, at varying levels, will participate in UIL Marching Contest (primary or production status only), Vista Ridge Young Artist Contest (required), and UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest (contingent upon successful pass-off completion). Members of this group will have a weekly Make Music

assignment. This group will give a variety of performances. In UIL activities, these groups will be designated as the "Sub-Non-Varsity B" band.

Members of any Vista Ridge performing ensemble (including those not listed within this section) will:

- Successfully complete the audition requirements by the appropriate time
- Demonstrate high quality performance skills in line with the expectations of the ensemble
- Adhere to attendance and punctuality standards
- Have all necessary supplies for all rehearsals and performances
- Be prepared for rehearsals by completing practice assignments such as Make Music or those outlined on the Practice Record
- Maintain continuous positive academic standing at Vista Ridge High School:
  - Grades of 70 or higher at all times in all classes
  - Completing and turning all assignments on time to all classes (including band)
  - Communicating with band staff and academic teachers immediately when the above requirements are not met
- Represent the school, school district, band program and themselves with the highest possible decorum and behavioral standards.

### *Performance Requirements for Concert Ensembles*

Each of the concert ensembles will perform at various times throughout the school year. Students are expected to participate in the performances of their assigned ensemble.

Performances of the concert ensembles will include but are not limited to the following:

- Fall Concert and Marching Band Performances
- Winter Concert
- Midwinter Clinics and Concert
- Spring Concert
- Band Festivals/Pre-UIL Contest
- UIL Contest
- Spring Trip Festival
- Honor Band Recording Concerts (Wind Ensemble students only)
- Graduation Band (Wind Ensemble and Wind Symphony students only)
- Others as needed

Concerts/Performances

Concerts and performances are an integral component of the band curriculum. Families should consult the band calendar for dates and times. Periodically, the schedule may change, and updates will be communicated. Concerts are considered to have three parts: warm-up, performance, and listening. The concert begins for the student at the warm-up. Punctuality is essential. A concert concludes after the last group performs and directors have given permission for students to be dismissed. A general report time will be given for all students.

- All concerts are a group effort; thus, attendance is required.
- All concerts are an extension of the classroom and will be graded accordingly.
- Students should be punctual and prepared for each performance/concert.
- In the event a performance causes a student to miss another class, the student is responsible to make up all missed work!
- The appropriate dress for all concerts will be a dress uniform (see Uniforms).
- Students are expected to stay the entire concert unless notified otherwise.
- Students are expected to help move equipment and reset facilities at the end of performances as requested by the band staff.

## *Private Lesson Program*

This is a district wide program that provides a high-quality enhancement to classroom instruction. Teachers are all specialists on their instruments. All of our teachers are professional musicians in the Austin area and have advanced degrees in the performance of their instruments. Lessons are extremely valuable to the individual student and are highly encouraged.

- *ALL* students are *ENCOURAGED* to take individualized private instruction.
- Teachers are vetted by the band staff in addition to being cleared by the district.
- Lessons will be given weekly during the band classes or before or after school.
- Detailed information will be distributed on the private lesson program.
- Enrollment in the Vista Ridge Private Lesson program is a *year long commitment*.
- During testing weeks or breaks, lessons can be arranged via Zoom (or similar) at your discretion.

# *Marching Band*

## Background Information

Leander ISD has enjoyed a reputation for excellence in music performance, including marching band, for many years. The marching band is the most visible aspect of the band program. The marching band provides performance opportunities for band students while integrating the band program into school and community activities.

## Marching Band Participation

As an integral part of the band program, Leander ISD's philosophy is that educationally, historically, and musically, marching band is an essential ingredient in a well-rounded music education in band. LISD believes that music students need to develop the ability to participate and perform in different ensemble experiences which, for band students, includes the marching band. As a result, marching band is required for all high school students who elect to take an academic band performance course. However, students who have medical complications or physical disabilities may be excused from participation at the discretion of the head band director. Philosophy regarding all aspects of high school band stems from TEA/UIL guidelines which govern all Texas schools.

## Physical Education Requirement Credit

As an artistic endeavor, each rehearsal and performance by the marching band is mentally and physically demanding. For the full marching band performance, students are always on task and must bring to the experience their best performance skills. As a result, each student in the marching band is eligible to receive a physical education substitution credit (maximum 1 credit) in accordance with TEA guidelines.

## Marching Band an Integral Component of State Curriculum Requirements

The music and performance skills and techniques, along with the associated academic skills in the band program, are derived from implementation of the expectations found in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). The curriculum specifically includes requirements such as demonstrating musical skills and artistry, performing in different musical mediums, and experiencing music through a wider range of music literature, which are addressed through the marching band. Each performance by the marching band provides students the opportunity to demonstrate musical artistry through the ensemble, individual music performance skills and techniques, marching performance skills and techniques, and critical thinking skills that include auditory, spatial, and visual awareness.

## High Academic Standards Maintained by Students

The opportunity for weekly performance is a motivating factor for academic achievement for marching band students, since only by maintaining their eligibility can they continue to perform. As a result, the directors have documented the fact that the least number of ineligible band students during the year occurs during the marching season.

## Color Guard

Students in Color Guard are a part of a year-round program and participate in all activities, including the Fall Marching Band and Winter Guard season. The color guard program also will perform in select community and school performances throughout the year. Students who quit band as a musician are not allowed to rejoin as Color Guard members without director approval and requirements. As members of the marching band, Color Guard students receive a physical education substitution credit.

## Grading

Since marching band is a part of the academic band course and therefore, part of the graded curriculum, students in marching band are responsible for assimilating the academic aspects of the band elective as found in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Attendance at rehearsals and performances is mandatory and will be integrated into the student's grade for band in accordance with TEA UIL guidelines.

## Practice Time Limits

Marching band practice times are regulated by TEA/UIL guidelines. Adherence to these guidelines is the responsibility of the Head Band Director at each high school. As per TEA and UIL rules: "The members of a marching band or any of its components may not begin the marching preparation for a UIL contest presentation prior to August 1. In addition, no more than ten hours of director-supervised instructional time may be devoted to marching fundamentals between the end of the previous school term and August 1." Music preparation is not affected by this ten-hour rule. Between August 1 and the 1st day of school, practice schedules are determined by the Head Band Director. During the school year, no more than 8 hours of rehearsal per week, outside of the school day, is allowed. Exceptions to the 8-hour rule include preparation immediately before games and competitions. LISD observes all of these guidelines.

## Rehearsal and Performance Schedules

Rehearsal and performance schedules are determined by each band staff and are published on the band's calendar found on the band website.

## Instruments

Marching band students who play an instrument that the LISD does not provide (flute, clarinet, alto sax, trumpet and trombone) must personally provide, march and perform with the same instrument they use in band or a second instrument of the same type that is approved by the Head Band Director.

Leander ISD assumes no responsibility for maintaining instruments they do not supply. Since these instruments will be played outside in various weather situations (sun, heat, wind, rain, etc.) students and parents need to be vigilant regarding instrument maintenance to keep the student's instrument in top playing condition.

## *Marching Band Positions*

Positions for the Marching Band will not be determined until after the first week of summer band camp at the end of July and will be assessed based on the following:

- Summer pass-off completion
- Spring and Summer band camp participation (attendance/punctuality)
- Overall marching and playing skill/coordination
- Performer viability

### Primary/Production Performer Roles

In order to maintain primary status, such students must:

- Successfully complete all band assignments on time
- Maintain demonstration of high-quality marching and playing skills
- Adhere to attendance and punctuality standards
- Be prepared for rehearsals by completing practice assignments such as Make Music or those outlined on the Practice Record
- Have all materials at each rehearsal
- Maintain continuous positive academic standing at Vista Ridge High School:
  - Grades of 70 or higher at all times in all classes
  - Completing and turning all assignments on time to all classes (including band)
  - Communicating with band staff and academic teachers immediately when the above requirements are not met
- Represent the school, school district, band program and themselves with the highest possible decorum and behavioral standards

### Special Note:

Non-compliance with the above guidelines will be subject to the interventions listed on the final page of this policy and procedures document.

### Secondary Role

Secondary performers are a necessary and vital aspect of our program due to the UIL “No Pass/No Play” rules and to prepare for possible substitutions due to injury, sustained illness, etc. Secondary performers may have less required rehearsals in the marching band and will perform with the band as it accompanies the dance team at halftime. A secondary performer does not have a specific performing role for the marching show but will still be able to support the ensemble at games and contests by assisting with set pieces and equipment.

There are many ingredients that are vital to a successful marching program and no one part is more valuable than any other. Examples of ways that students can contribute to the performance are: Marching Winds, Marching Percussion, Pit Percussion, Visual Ensemble, Stage Crew, Pit Crew, and Tech Crew.

## *Football Game Procedures*

The football game is viewed as a performance of the band program. Such performances include all aspects of the game from arrival to departure.

- Students will remain on campus after school on game days for a brief rehearsal and then for food provided by the boosters through the yearly meal fee paid by each family. This is in consideration of time, organization, and safety. Please do not ask for exceptions to this except in the case of food allergy.
- Students will arrive at the designated report time. For typical game days, this is defined as directly after school.
- Students will load and be prepared to travel at the designated load time.
- Students will load the buses with all equipment needed for the performance. The section leaders will inspect all students boarding buses prior to departure. Students not meeting uniform, music, and loading guidelines may be sent home and not allowed to participate. Students will receive an unexcused absence for such occurrences. Missing items or non-adherence to these guidelines can also result in a lowered grade for the football game performance. Any equipment that has to be reissued due to not having it will be charged to the student’s account.
- Upon arrival at the performance area, students will do all uniform components and prepare equipment for unloading. Students will unload buses when instructed to do so by a student leader, chaperone, or director.



Exit the bus in proper uniform as instructed by the directors, carrying all necessary equipment in a garment bag unless instructed otherwise.

- Instruments that arrived via the equipment truck/trailer will be picked up at the designated area when instructed. All cases must be put back in the original location with latches closed.
- Students will report to the entrance formation for final inspection. Upon instruction from a Drum Major or director, students will walk into the stands in an organized fashion.
- Upon arrival to the seating area, students will remain standing until all band members have arrived and are prepared to be seated. Students will sit when instructed by a Drum Major or director. Students will sit in the assigned seat and section. Students will remain in that seat and section at all times. Any movement in this bleacher adds risk to the safety of students and their instruments.
- Visual Ensemble members will have specific instructions on changing into and out of football and performance uniforms, at the discretion of the Visual Ensemble/Color Guard Director.
- Restroom breaks may be granted by a director, chaperone, or selected student leader. Every effort will be made to accommodate needs without jeopardizing the integrity of the section. Restroom breaks will not be granted in the second quarter of a football game, and no more than 1 student per section can be out of the stands for a restroom break at any given time.
- Students will be expected to listen for and watch the directors and drum majors during the game. Students will need to be prepared to perform at all times and at a moment's notice.
- Students will refrain from playing their instruments on an individual basis. The band will perform as a group or with approved small ensembles. While playing, always pay attention to the director/drum major.
- At the appropriate time, the band will be dismissed from the stands for the half-time performance. At this time, the band must move quickly, quietly, and efficiently to the appropriate area. Students will need to be focused on the directors' and Drum Majors' instructions.
- At the conclusion of the half-time performance, students will return to the stands and continue in the stands throughout the remainder of the game.
- During the 3rd quarter, we will participate in the good sportsmanship procedures of officer meetings and introductions. We will follow a schedule of which student members participate in this event each week.
- At the conclusion of the game, students will load buses quickly and efficiently.
- Upon return to the band hall, students will ensure that all personal items, uniforms and instruments are placed in the proper storage areas.
- At the conclusion of each engagement, there may be a brief meeting, including watching a video of our performance from that game, before dismissal. Students are not required to stay for the video.

## *Marching Band Performance Procedures*

- **Report Time:** This will be the designated time at which all members should be at the high school or set location. Students should have all attire and necessary items for the designated performance prior to the report time.
- **Load Time:** This will be the designated time at which all members should be on the appropriate bus with all equipment loaded. All equipment will be checked by the section leaders. Students without appropriate equipment will be sent home and an unexcused absence recorded.
- **Return Time:** This will be the approximate time of return to the band hall.

### What to bring:

- Garment Bag
- Black Shoes
- Black Socks
- Water Bottle
- Flip Folder (if game, pep rally, community event, or parade)
- Lyre (if game, pep rally, community event, or parade)
- Instrument with accessories
- Band Shirt
- Rain Poncho
- Uniform Apparel
- Proper undergarments
- Hair Accessories (Hair spray, gel, bobby pins)

### Pre-performance Practice:

- Wear black shoes, black socks, band shirt
- No fingernail polish
- No jewelry
- Bring all equipment (weather permitting): that means **everything** (drums, uniforms, etc.)

### Music Inspection

Music inspection will occur before all football games and marching band performances that will utilize music which is not part of the field/competition show. Students will be asked to display music, lyre (if appropriate), and flip folder. Students who do not pass music inspection may not be allowed to perform.

### Uniform Inspection

Prior to student departure for a marching band performance, students must pass a uniform inspection. In order to board the bus, students must have a complete uniform, rain poncho, music, flip folder, and other components for the marching performance.

Students who do not pass the uniform inspection may not be allowed to attend the event or perform. Students not meeting uniform, music, and loading guidelines will be subject to disciplinary consequences and grade reductions.

Color Guard members will also go through a uniform inspection, including pep costume, competition uniform, and all equipment.

#### Color Guard Members - What to bring:

- Garment Bag
- Jazz Shoes and/or Jazz Sneakers
- Black Socks
- Water Bottle
- Proper undergarments (ladies - bodytights and bras, men - dance belts)
- Flag bag with accessories
- Guard Gloves
- Warm-Up Jacket
- Band Shirt
- Rain Poncho
- Uniform
- Hair Accessories (Hair spray, gel, bobby pins)
- Makeup Supplies
- No fingernail polish
- No jewelry

## *Instrument Loading/Unloading*

Large instruments will be transported on the band trailer/instrument trucks. All others (flutes & clarinets) will transport their instruments on the bus. Students will be responsible for ensuring that their instrument or empty case is in the proper location. After the instrument truck/band trailer has been unloaded, each student will be responsible for picking up their instrument and storing it correctly. Students who display difficulty in following the loading and unloading procedures may lose the privilege of utilizing the instrument truck.

#### Loading Procedures

Directors will designate the appropriate area for all instruments. Students should ensure that their instrument is in the proper place. Cases should be latched and secure. Instruments in the wrong area may be overlooked and not loaded.

## Unloading Procedures

Directors will designate the unloading area. Students should uncase their instrument and leave cases in the appropriate area. Unloading should be done in a timely and efficient manner.

- All instruments except clarinets and flutes will be expected to transport instruments on the band trailer/instrument truck.
- Case should be closed and secure. Instruments in the wrong area may be overlooked and not loaded.
- Students will be responsible for seeing that their instrument or empty case is in the proper location.
- Section leaders will complete inspection/pass-off and lead their section to the cafeteria (once complete).

### Arrival at VRHS:

- Students will also be responsible to see that their instrument is picked up and stored correctly upon the unloading of the instrument truck. All wind instruments are required to be taken home at the end of performances that occur on a Friday or Saturday.
- Return uniform (hung properly) to the designated uniform rack.
- Once the truck is completely unloaded and everything is put away, a video of the performance will be shown in the Band Hall. Students are not required to stay for the video.
- Students who display difficulty in following the loading and unloading procedures may lose the privilege of utilizing the instrument truck.

## *Uniform Guidelines*

Students are expected to follow the listed uniform guidelines. No variations will be allowed. Failure to comply with uniform guidelines may result in not being able to get on the bus or removed from the performance.

### General

- Marching Band uniforms will be issued during summer band camp. Band uniforms will be stored at school in the uniform storage area.
- A guide for acceptable concert attire will be provided at the appropriate time. Concert attire will not be provided by the band program. The concert attire can be used and worn for any formal concert or event where a more formal or semi formal look is needed or required.
- Band parents will perform the initial uniform alterations if needed.

- Students will be held financially responsible for the uniform(s) and all components.

### Uniform Guidelines

- The uniform should be worn as a complete unit at all times when in public unless otherwise stated by a director.
- The Vista Ridge Band dri-fit shirt, Vista Ridge Band shorts, solid black over-the-calf socks (with no visible logo) and black marching shoes must be worn with the uniform at all times. Hats are not to be worn with the uniform unless it is the approved casual Vista Ridge Band hat
- Jewelry of any kind (including nose rings or stud earrings of any kind), hair ribbons, and nail polish etc. should not be worn while in uniform. This includes watches and bracelets
- Band students with long hair will need to style and/or pin their hair in a way to keep the hair neat and smooth against the surface of the skull. All hair must be clear of the neckline and ears. No visible hair on forehead.
- Hair grooming: Students with longer hair that is clear of the neckline and ears still require appropriate styling. Excessively bushy hair may require hair products at the discretion of a band director. Alternatively, the Vista Ridge Band approved hat may be worn (except for field performances where the shako is utilized)
- Sunglasses are allowed for parades and performing in the stadium seats. Sunglass frames and lenses must be neutral in color and finish. Stay with dark colors such as black, brown, maroon, or navy/dark blue.
- Only natural hair colors are allowed in uniform or at band performances.
- Absolutely no running in uniform.
- No consumption of food and drinks (other than water) while in uniform.
- Prior to leaving for the game or contest, students' uniforms will be checked by the section leader.
- At the conclusion of the game, Students must check their uniform into a leader with the following guidelines.
  - Shoulder pads lay over the hanger correctly
  - Zipper is zipped all the way up
  - Pants are hung by the crease with a dowel latched to keep the pants secure.
  - Uniform is stored in the student's garment bag

### Color Guard

- Personal appearance is crucial to the color guard's role in performance. Students will be given a specific hair and makeup style to wear at football games and at competitions - this is to be strictly followed.
- Hair and makeup supplies are not provided by the band or district.
- Only natural hair colors are allowed

- Any changes in hairstyle (including color) should be approved by the Color Guard Director prior to making any change. This could affect the performances for both marching band and winter guard.
- Students should not have facial piercings (except for ears), unless they can be covered, nor visible tattoos in a traditional sleeveless costume.
- Only prescribed accessories that are part of the uniform may be worn.
- Students should not have any visible tattoos. If so, they must be covered with makeup or a bandage so as not to be seen.

### Color Guard Uniforms

- Students are responsible for the care of their assigned uniform. Any damages should be reported to the Director and repaired as soon as possible.
- Laundering will be completed by a parent committee and organized by the Color Guard VP of Uniforms.
- Students and families are given laundering instructions with their costume once delivered. Absolutely no change should be made to the proscribed laundering methods. If laundering is needed between provided treatment, please adhere to distributed instructions.
- Any cost for loss, damage or repair to a costume will be the student/family's responsibility.

### Uniform Costs

If a uniform part is damaged or lost, the student will be responsible for the replacement costs. All marching uniforms are professionally cleaned at the same time to prevent unequal discoloration and fading. The costs for cleaning are collected from each student in advance (see Financial).

## *Color Guard Information*

### Dressing Out

Students must wear proper attire during any class, rehearsal or performance. Daily Class or Rehearsal Attire includes:

- HOT WEATHER
  - Shorts: appropriate length; spansks or booty shorts are not allowed.
  - Tank Top or T-Shirt: School appropriate,
  - Sports bra (ladies)
  - Socks
  - Tennis shoes: tennis, running, cross training shoes are appropriate - no boots, sandals, Converse/Bobs/Toms/etc.
  - Hair pulled back, out of your face, in either a bun or a ponytail - NO BANGS (must be pinned, gelled, or held back with a headband).

- COLD WEATHER
  - Leggings/Sweatpants
  - Layers with long sleeves
    - Including appropriate jackets for temperature/weather
  - Sports bra (ladies)
  - Socks
  - Tennis shoes
  - Hair pulled back, out of your face, in either a bun or a ponytail - NO BANGS (must be pinned, gelled, or held back with a headband).
- INDOOR:
  - Black leggings or black spandex shorts with tights
    - Booty shorts, boxers, and spunks are not allowed.
  - Black tank top, t-shirt, leotard, etc.
  - Sports bra (ladies)
  - Students will not wear shoes (unless approved by the director), but may wear socks at their own discretion
    - Students may be asked to remove socks during dance class for safety.
  - Hair pulled back, out of your face, in either a bun or a ponytail - NO BANGS (must be pinned, gelled, or held back with a headband).

### Duffle Bags/Guard Bags/Backpacks

Students should be responsible for bringing items they may need, individually, during the course of a rehearsal or show day. Some items are provided in a toolbox for team use, but students should have the following items handy at all times:

- White electrical tape
- Black electrical tape
- Bobby pins/hair clips
- Hair spray
- Hair ties
- DEODORANT/smell good spray
- Feminine products
- Kleenex/makeup wipes
- Show makeup and hair supplies
- Costume and/or rehearsal uniform parts (for warm up or football games)
- Extra socks
- Extra sunscreen

### Winter Guard

Students in the Color Guard program participate year-round, which includes the fall Marching Band season and the Winter Guard program during the spring semester.

Students will not be excused from one season for the other. Year-round participation is expected from all Color Guard members. Winter Guard rehearsal and competition dates are finalized and communicated at the end of October and added to the Vista Ridge Band and Vista Ridge Guard calendars. There are traditionally Winter Guard Camps during the Winter Break and Spring Break holidays, but much care is taken for as full of a break as possible. Please consult the band calendar before making any holiday travel plans. We typically have competitions from January through early April, including Spring Break, so do not plan on taking vacations during this time. Missed competitions will result in disciplinary action.

Vista Ridge High School students are eligible to audition for the Winter Guard Program on approval from the appropriate directors and Color Guard Director. Students are expected to maintain their academic and extra-curricular responsibilities to the highest level or participation in the Winter Guard will not be allowed.

If joining the Winter Guard in the middle of the school year, students will be responsible for all member fees, meal fees and apparel fees upon joining.

## *Student Leadership*

The high school band programs in Leander ISD provide many opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills with a variety of offerings. In this manner, students can not only serve their band program but also refine skills that they will be able to use in other school organizations, as well as in their future careers. Audition criteria is selected at the discretion of the directors and is communicated to the students. The directors evaluate all selected officer candidates based on their performance both during the audition and during their performance during the current school year.

Student leaders are held to higher standards of performance and behavior than a general band student. They are expected to be positive role models for all band members at all times. Leaders who do not adhere to behavioral expectations may be subject to probation or removal from the leadership team for any period of time, as deemed appropriate by the directors.

## *Marching Band Student Leadership Positions*

### **Drum Major(s)**

The Drum Major(s) will be the conductor(s) for the marching ensemble. A Drum Major will serve the marching season for which he/she is selected. In the event that an underclassman is selected as Drum Major, he/she must reenter the selection process



the next school year. Drum Majors will be selected through an audition process. Specific elements of the drum major audition process may vary from year to year.

### Section Leaders

Section leaders will be responsible for efficient operations of their sections. They will complete weekly inspections, maintain field discipline, provide instruction, serve as positive role models, and assist the drum majors as needed. They will be selected through the first portion of the Drum Major audition process.

### Service Positions

All band students are eligible to apply/audition for service positions. The specific requirements for positions may vary according to the responsibilities of the office. The Vice Presidents shall assist the band directors and band students in planning, preparing, and executing various band functions. Student leadership positions range from service areas to executive areas and may change annually. Examples of student leadership positions are Band President, Vice President of Uniforms, Vice President of Administration, Vice President of Logistics, Vice President of Communication, and Vice President of Student Experience. These offices may change in name and duties from year to year. Candidates for these offices are screened through an audition process.

## ***Band Boosters***

The Vista Ridge High School Band Boosters exist to assist the band directors in reaching the band program goals. They assist primarily through fundraising and volunteer efforts. Please check the band calendar meeting dates. The meetings are open to the public and occur in the Vista Ridge High School Band Hall. Support activities provided by the boosters include serving meals to students before games, providing chaperones for trips, providing chaperones for social events, financing of social events, providing parents to assist in various aspects of the marching band production, and numerous other activities. There is a place for every parent in this organization. Your service is not only encouraged, but also needed. For more information, please visit our website at [www.vrhsband.org](http://www.vrhsband.org) for more information.

## ***Band Banquet***

The Head Band Director must approve any student guest who is not in the band program. Students who have left the Vista Ridge Band program without finishing all four years are not eligible as guests to the Ranger Band Banquet. Vista Ridge Band graduates are eligible to return to banquets as guests.

## Letter Jackets

The VRHS Band Letter is first a recognition of *“Significant Service and Dedication”* to the VRHS Band Program, manifested by hours upon hours of practice, patience, and perseverance as well as sacrificial giving of time and energy for the good of fellow bandmates, the directors, and the band as a whole.

Members of the Color Guard/Visual Ensemble will use the same criteria system as the band.

A student must earn a cumulative total of 50 points to qualify for a letter jacket from the Vista Ridge High School Band. Jackets will be awarded the following fall after qualifying permitting that the member is still enrolled in the band program.

Lastly, in the event that a senior band student has not yet earned a Letter, he/she will be awarded one from the VRHS Boosters and will be welcome to purchase the jacket during the Summer prior to their senior year, in recognition of time committed to excellence within the VRHS Band Program.

Points may be earned in the following manner:

### Ranger Band Participation (Maximum 25 points a year)

- Fall Semester: Successful participation in marching band season (defined below): 10 points
- Spring Semester: Successful participation in concert band or winter guard (defined below): 15 points
- “Successful participation” is defined as
  - Marching season: maintaining eligibility and going with the band to all UIL events
  - Concert season: participating with the band at UIL Concert and Sight Reading Evaluation
  - Winter Guard: successful completion of the second semester, including participation in all performances and contests required by the class

### TMEA All-State Band Process (Maximum 50 points a year)

- Selection to and performance with the TMEA All-State Band or TMEA All-State Orchestra: 50 points
- Selection to and performance with the 6A TMEA All-Area Band: 25 points
- Selection to and performance with the TMEA All-Region Band or TMEA All-Region Orchestra: 25 points (if a student makes both, the point total is still only 25 points)

### Vista Ridge Young Artist Competition (Maximum 25 points a year)

- Earn a Superior (First Division) Rating at the Vista Ridge Young Artist Contest: 25 points
- Earn an Excellent (Second Division) Rating at the Vista Ridge Young Artist Contest: 15 points

## *Region Band/Orchestra Guidelines*

- All Wind Ensemble (1st band) and Wind Symphony (2nd band) students are expected to successfully prepare the music and audition for All-Region Band.
- Any student wanting to be considered for placement in the Wind Ensemble (1st band) or Symphonic Winds (2nd band) in the spring semester must attend fall masterclasses (including the mock audition), successfully prepare the region music, and audition for All-Region Band.
- All Percussion students will prepare and audition for All-Region Band, regardless of band class placement. Any excusal from this event must be approved by the percussion director.
- The Director of Bands has ultimate discretion regarding any student participating in the All-Region Band process.
- Auditioning for the All-Region Band (an elite group) is a privilege and deserves one's best effort and preparation.
- Students will be graded on their preparation and performance of all or part of the All-Region Music, regardless of their participation in the auditions. It will count as a series of major grades, and culminate with an exam, or local/mock audition.
- Students who are selected are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances pertaining to this event. This is a TMEA Regional Event, and a distinct honor and privilege. Attendance (if selected) should take precedence over all other extra-curricular activities.

## *Young Artist Contest*

All students are required to participate in the Vista Ridge "Young Artist Contest" preliminaries. In the event that there is an excusable conflict with the date and time of the assigned YAC preliminary contest, the performance will be given during a subsequent band class.

Grades will be issued for preparation and participation in the Young Artist Contest process. Students must use an approved accompanist. The accompanist fee is set by the band director each year. Some accompaniments are more difficult than others and may require an additional amount.

## *Percussion Ensemble Concert*

This is a concert held in the spring semester featuring VRHS percussionists and possibly percussionists from feeder middle school(s). The students perform a variety of percussion ensemble music, solos they have learned for the Vista Ridge Young Artist Contest, as well as pieces for the Percussive Arts Society (PAS) International Ensemble Competition or other invitational percussion festivals, should they attend. PAS is an international organization that serves the world of percussion performance and education. Membership in this organization is inexpensive and is encouraged for every percussion student at VRHS – [www.pas.org](http://www.pas.org)

## *Data Collection - Privacy Notice*

The VRHS Band Directors and VRHS Band Booster Club use an online data information and communication website (e.g., Presto, Cut Time, etc.) to keep members informed about events, practices, and other important updates. Depending on the level of access set by the director or teacher, the website may contain contact information for students and parents, directory information for students, and confidential information such as payments made, account balances, uniforms, grades, practice logs, etc. Users and administrators of the website agree to protect the privacy of the information and agree not to use any information for non-program related purposes.

## *After-Event Student Pick-Up*

While we understand that sometimes unforeseen delays can occur, the expectation is that students are picked up within 15 minutes of the band's arrival back to the school or the published end time of the event. If a student is left without a ride longer than 15 minutes, a parent or guardian will be contacted. If contact is not able to be made, Leander PD will be contacted to stay with the student or provide a ride home.

Repeated issues with delays in pick up may result in the student no longer being able to participate.

## *Volunteer Guidelines and Policies*

The success of our organization depends on helpful and willing volunteers! Please keep the following in mind before signing up to volunteer:

- Volunteers for the Ranger Band must act responsibly with the goal of being a great role model for all students in the band program.

- All volunteers must go through the required district background check and be approved prior to volunteering. We encourage all parents to submit the volunteer background check so that you can be ready to go at a moment's notice!
- Whether volunteering within a role that does or does not involve direct contact with students, alcohol or drug consumption, smoking/vaping, and/or tobacco use are strictly prohibited. Additionally, alcohol and/or drug use is forbidden on the day of any volunteer function whether private, away from school property, or otherwise.
- Volunteers are required to report any illegal action or suspected illegal action by another volunteer to a band/guard director immediately and directly.
- Violation of any of the above policies will result in volunteer privileges being revoked

Auxiliary Volunteering - Smaller group functions, Percussion, Guard, Single Concert Band, etc.

- If your child is participating in additional events or contests as part of an auxiliary group involving less students (basically, not marching band), be prepared to volunteer.
- Obtaining volunteers in these instances can become a challenge since the pool of parents becomes much smaller.
- Please be ready to step in to volunteer so that this need does not become burdensome to only a small number of parents - all are expected to pitch in. Many hands make light work!

## *Interventions and Consequences*

Failure to comply with any of the expectations outlined in the Vista Ridge Band Policies and Procedures document will result in consequences determined by the Vista Ridge Band Staff.

- Significant infractions will result in one-on-one conference with the student, possible assignment of band community service hour(s), and email or phone communication with parents about the situation.
- Ensuing significant infractions will result in escalated consequences including but not limited to:
  - Additional band community service hours
  - Suspension from performances or band activities

- Loss of varsity/primary marching status or lowered band placement in concert season
  - Probationary placement within the program
  - Removal from the band program
- *Behavioral* incidents may additionally be referred to campus administration for disciplinary action on a campus level.