

Veterans Memorial Early College High School Band Hand Book 2019 - 2020

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Veterans Memorial Charger Band. You are now a part of one of the most dynamic instrumental music programs in the state of Texas. There are many reasons for the projected success of our music program. This handbook will describe and outline some of these reasons and other aspects which will develop our success.

The rules outlined on the following pages are simple and sound. Abiding by these rules allows you to fulfill an obligation to your school, to your fellow band members, to your family, and to yourself. Only when every member of the band puts forth 100% effort can a band attain its goals in musical achievement and service to school and community.

Please take special notice of the sections dealing with attendance at functions, progress reports, grading system, rehearsal procedures, uniforms, and important dates.

Parents and students are requested to read this entire handbook, discuss it, and keep it for reference for the 2019 – 2020 school year. This document is available both digitally and as a downloadable PDF on our Charger Band website (www.veteransband.com).

Sincerely,

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VETERANS BAND COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Veterans Charger Band consists of several performing groups. Each of the daily classes represents either a section of a larger group or a complete performance group unto itself. The program will be divided among the following ensembles.

WIND ENSEMBLE

(Concurrent enrollment in Instrumental Ensemble is required)

This class is by audition only. Students that are chosen will be performing approximately one grade level beyond their current status. A student's selection to this class will be greatly influenced by the student's past record of personal discipline and their ability to function as a member of a team. Elements of music are approached through exercises of increasing difficulty, which present challenging, interesting, and enriching activities. Solo and group contests provide competitive opportunities for students to receive constructive criticism from judges outside the school district. This is an all year class. Attendance is mandatory. Students are required to pass all of their classes in order to be eligible for contests and performances. Students who demonstrate consistent inability to pass classes will be removed from the Wind Ensemble. Students not complying with the class requirements or not maintaining performance standards or discipline levels in keeping with an honors class will be removed from the Wind Ensemble at the earliest opportunity. Students will be required to sign a contract with a parent's signature acknowledging that they understand and will comply with the requirements of this class.

SYMPHONIC BAND

(Concurrent enrollment in Instrumental Ensemble is required)

This class is by audition only. Students that are chosen will be performing approximately one grade level beyond their current status. A student's selection to this class will be greatly influenced by the student's past record of personal discipline and their ability to function as a member of a team. Elements of music are approached through exercises of increasing difficulty, which present challenging, interesting, and enriching activities. Solo and group contests provide competitive opportunities for students to receive constructive criticism from judges outside the school district. This is an all year class. Attendance is mandatory. Students are required to pass all of their classes in order to be eligible for contests and performances. Students who demonstrate consistent inability to pass classes will be removed from the Symphonic Band. Students not complying with the class requirements or not maintaining performance standards or discipline levels in keeping with an honors class will be removed from the Symphonic Band at the earliest opportunity. Students will be required to sign a contract with a parent's signature acknowledging that they understand and will comply with the requirements of this class.

CONCERT BAND

(Concurrent enrollment in Instrumental Ensemble is required)

This class is by audition only. Students that are chosen will be performing approximately one grade level beyond their current status. A student's selection to this class will be greatly influenced by the student's past record of personal discipline and their ability to function as a member of a team. Elements of music are approached through exercises of increasing difficulty, which present challenging, interesting, and enriching activities. Solo and group contests provide competitive opportunities for students to receive constructive criticism from judges outside the school district. This is an all year class. Attendance is mandatory. Students are required to pass all of their classes in order to be eligible for contests and performances. Students who demonstrate consistent inability to pass classes will be removed from the Concert Band. Students not complying with the class requirements or not maintaining performance standards or discipline levels in keeping with an honors class will be removed from the Concert Band at the earliest opportunity.

INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE

(All Students)

Instrumental Ensemble is a required class taken concurrently with the band class. The course is designed to assist students on a one to one basis. Elements of music are approached through exercises of increasing difficulty, which present challenging, interesting, and enrichment activities. All band members must be enrolled in this class unless there is a legitimate scheduling conflict with the magnet program or with graduation requirements. Every effort shall be made to accommodate this class in the student's schedule. The Director of Bands shall be notified in writing if there is a conflict that would limit a student's participation in this class. A conflict with another *elective* is not justification for non-enrollment. Not having this class could limit a student's participation in the Wind Ensemble or Color Guard. The Director of Bands will make exceptions on an individual basis.

MARCHING BAND

(All students: Fall Semester)

Marching Band is an integral part of the band program that is used for school spirit and to demonstrate fundamentals of music and marching. Elements of music and marching are approached through exercises of increasing difficulty, which present challenging, interesting, and enriching activities. The marching band performs at all football games during half time. The Marching Band also participates in several marching contests during the year. All band members need to have a music lyre for their instrument for all marching band functions. Not having a lyre for all functions may result in a student's inability to participate at that function.

Attendance is mandatory at all rehearsals. After school marching rehearsals are held from 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM,(some weeks times will be amended due to day of performances) Monday – Tuesday- Wednesday - Thursday/Friday (except game days). ALL absences regardless of being excused or un-excused require a signed note from a parent or guardian explaining the absence, and will require the missed time be made up so as not to affect a student's participation grade.

Music, played on the field, will be memorized and passed off for a weekly grade. This grade will count towards your six-week average.

You will sit in assigned seats at the football games (no trading). Only Veterans Band personnel are allowed in the band section. No dancing or playing instruments unless the full band is participating. No food is permitted in the band section. In order to maintain a uniform appearance on the field in accordance with UIL criteria, band members with long hair will need to conceal it in their hat, or will be required to get their hair cut shorter.

COLOR GUARD

The Veterans Memorial Charger Color Guard (Guard) is a vital and integral part of the Veterans Memorial Charger Marching Band. During the spring semester, students may sign up for guard auditions. Students will then practice, after school, learning fundamentals. Once the "fundamentals" class is complete, the prospective guard members perform a routine to music. Based on an audition and review of each student's performance all students will become part the Color Guard Unit. Being in the Veterans Charger Color Guard is a **privilege**. The highest standards of deportment are expected of its members. Failure to comply with the band hand book, school guidelines, and district rules will result in immediate removal from the Veterans Charger Color Guard. Student wanting to participate in the Winter Guard Ensemble will need to sign and return contract during the Fall Semester.

Color Guard Captains

- Directs the Guard, both on and off the field. They are considered the directors' assistants and are the students responsible for the morale and discipline of the Guard.
- a. Color Guard auditions will be held at the end of the year in preparation for the upcoming marching season. The Director of Bands will choose a panel of judges (band directors from schools other than Veterans Memorial High School). In addition all Color Guard Captain Candidates must have been eligible every 6 wks. prior to the audition and maintained a high attendance rate for all classes.
 - b. A maximum four and a minimum of one student will be chosen for the positions of the Color Guard Captain and Co-Captains.
 - c. Color Guard Captains are expected to maintain the highest level of integrity throughout the entire school year, as they are ranking representatives of the band. If the integrity of a Color Guard Captain is in question, whether scholastically or morally, the Director of Bands reserves the right to remove an individual from his position and that position will be replaced with the next candidate selected in the original audition.
 - d. The Director of Bands reserves the right to approve the judges' selection of Color Guard Captain and Co-Captains. This will be based on the student's past Color Guard performance, and overall behavior in the Veterans Memorial Band.

DESCRIPTION OF DIFFERENTIATION FOR G/T STUDENTS

Identify goals and means in which the student's needs will be facilitated. Differentiation must include components of depth and complexity and strategies for differentiation.

MUSIC

Music and flip folios will be checked out to band members. All band members are responsible for all music in their folios. Marching folios should be kept in the assigned locker/slot during the day. It will be each band member's responsibility to make arrangements to have their music at school if they are going to be absent. This is especially true for percussion members where each part is so important. It is very important that all music is taken care of and preserved for future use. You will have to pay for all lost music. Students will be charged replacement costs for school owned method books that are lost. Music that is not turned in one day after it is taken up is considered lost, and you will have to pay for it.

Music may be marked in pencil only and music must never be folded. You must number all measures in your music.

MUSIC BOOKS

The Brownsville Independent School District provides music books for use by students. The students are expected to keep these books in excellent condition. The books may be marked in with pencil only. **NO PEN!** Students will also be issued a music folder in which to store their music. This folder is property of the Veterans Memorial Charger Band and must be returned in excellent condition at the end of the year.

REHEARSAL AND DAILY PROCEDURES

The following is the guideline to a successful rehearsal. These guidelines should be considered rules. Rule violations incur a penalty and a resultant action that is negative to the band. The student who violates the rules is responsible for reducing the amount of time for rehearsal and consequently hurting the entire band.

1. Enter the rehearsal hall in a quiet, courteous, and orderly manner.
2. Quickly get your instrument and music and take your seat.
3. A student will be considered tardy if they are not in their seat, ready to rehearse when the tardy bell rings.
4. Students will follow agenda as per director and put their method books and music in the order of the agenda.
5. Concert attention will be observed when the director steps on the podium and no further talking will be permitted.
6. Students will not play instruments without permission.
7. Students will not play other student's instruments. This includes percussion and district owned instruments.
8. Band member should have the following for every rehearsal:
 - a. **INSTRUMENT** with the necessary accessories
 - b. **ALL MUSIC**
 - c. **PENCIL**
9. All schoolbooks, horn cases, and equipment not needed for the rehearsal should be left in the instrument storage lockers or bookshelves.
10. Good posture is of great importance at all times.
11. Music stands are for music. They are not to be leaned on or abused in any way.
12. If your instrument is in the shop, please bring a note from home. Bring your mouthpiece and music. There is always the possibility that we could provide a temporary instrument.
13. When class is over, quietly remain in your seat until you are dismissed.
14. The band directors will check the instrument storage lockers daily to make sure everyone has taken their instrument and music home to practice. It is, of course, impossible to practice at home if your instrument is sitting in the band hall overnight. If you go home sick, come to the band hall and get your instrument and music.

15. Students who do not bring their instruments to school will have points deducted from their participation grade.
16. No food or drinks will be allowed in the band hall.
17. No portable music listening devices in the band hall, during class.
18. **Gum chewing is not allowed!**

DISCIPLINE

Band by its very name suggests oneness, teamwork, ensemble, great cooperation, with everyone striving for a common goal. This all comes at a time in a high school student's life when they are striving for individual identity. A very small number of students find that they cannot make this kind of sacrifice and become disruptive discipline problems for the band director. These students will not be allowed to affect the quality of learning taking place in that band class. Continued problems will result in that student being moved down to a lower level band or to another elective. Band students need to accept responsibility for their actions, good or bad, and go on.

All discipline problems will be handled on an individual basis.

1. First offense – warning, may be documented on discipline plan.
2. Second offense -- parental contact, documented on discipline plan.
3. Third offense -- student will be referred to administration, documented on discipline plan. Student will be placed in another elective, dismissed from band program.

The following are general rules that will be adhered to at all times

1. NO drinking of alcoholic beverages prior to or at any function will be tolerated.
2. Drugs will not be tolerated! If you are caught with drugs, you will be immediately expelled from the band.
3. No inappropriate language in the band hall or at a band function will be tolerated.
4. The Veterans Memorial Band hall is for rehearsing music and practicing. There will be no loitering in the band hall.
5. There will be no "horse-playing" or inappropriate behavior in the band hall or during band functions.
6. Students found guilty of theft or destruction of school property or property of other students will jeopardize their participation in the band program.
7. No inappropriate signs of affection are permitted in or around the band hall area.
8. Any student who is assigned to Alternative school will be automatically prohibited from

participation in the Veterans Memorial Band Program for the duration of their time at the Alternative School. Their future participation in the band will be at the discretion of the director.

Education Code 37.151

“Hazing” means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution directed against a student, by one person alone or acting with others, that endangers the mental or physical health or the safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are or include other students. The term includes:

1. Any type of physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body, or similar activity.
2. Any type of physical activity, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, calisthenics, or other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
3. Any activity involving consumption of a food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, liquor, drug, or other substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
4. Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects the student to extreme mental stress, shame, or humiliation, or that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from entering or remaining registered in an educational institution, or that may reasonably be expected to cause a student to leave the organization or the institution rather than submit to acts described above.
5. Any activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that involves a violation of the Penal Code.

The Veterans Memorial Charger Band has a Zero Tolerance policy regarding hazing. Students who have hazed other students will be removed from the Veterans Memorial Charger Band Program, and referred to the proper authorities.

Any suspicion of alcohol or drug use or possession of any of these substances, while on campus or off campus on a school sponsored activity, may result in a search of belongings.

GRADING

Instrumental Ensemble Class

BISD policy is followed for grading purposes. Ensemble class grades will be based upon the following criteria:

2 Grades Per Week – 1 major and 1 minor assessment per week.

Minor Assessment (100 pts a week)

*Class Participation

- Each day holds a possibility of reaching a maximum of 20 pts.
- Class Preparation of Materials and Supplies (reeds, sticks, mallets, mouthpieces, etc) **15pts**
- Pencils, Folders, Music, Drill Binders, Flip Folders, Lyres **5 pts.**
- If a student does not bring their instrument to class, they will receive a deduction of all 20 pts available that day
- The only valid excuse for not having an instrument is if the instrument is in for repair. If repair is made out of district, then documentation must be presented as to when the instrument first went in for repair and was sent back fixed. (A copy of the bill will suffice)

Major Assessment (100 pts a week)

---Criteria assessed

- Tone quality/production
- Technical Facility
- Accuracy
- Musicality

---Music assessed can be chosen from:

- Stand tunes, scales, arpeggios, lip slurs, warm-up routine, note & rhythm recognition and demonstration of mastery of skills
- Marching music pass-offs
- Concert Music demonstration of mastery of performance

10th Period or “Zero Hour” Band Class

This is a performance based class. Absences, either excused or unexcused, cannot be made up. An excused absence can only be granted with prior notification in writing. Emergency situations require a phone call as soon as possible. The number to the band hall is 574-5611. Parents and students are asked to leave a voicemail if no one answers. In the event of an emergency absence, the student shall bring in written documentation to the band director upon arrival back to class.

2 Grades Per Week – 1 major and 1 minor assessment per week.

Minor Assessment (100 pts. a week)

- Class Preparation of Materials and Supplies (reeds, sticks, mallets, mouthpieces, etc)
- Pencils, Folders, Music, Coordinate Cards, Flip Folders, Lyres
- Daily active participation in rehearsals. Failure to show up will result in the loss of daily pts. that day. If the absence is excused, documentation must be presented.

Major Assessment (100pts a week)

- Tone quality/production
- Technical Facility
- Stand tunes, scales, arpeggios, lip slurs, warm-up routine, not & rhythm recognition and demonstration of mastery of skills
- All Performances, Contests, Parades, Concerts

PRACTICE

Band students at Veterans High School should be prepared to devote a minimum of (45) minutes daily to individual practice. The rewards of playing a musical instrument increase in direct proportion to the number of hours invested in individual practice. These rewards include chair placement, grade, and self-satisfaction. There will be many times during any seven-day period when more time than thirty (45) minutes can be devoted to practice. The key is to set aside a certain time every day for practice. Set up a daily schedule to insure that practice is an important part of your daily studies.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is required for all rehearsals and public performances of the various performing groups that make up the Veterans Band Program. One primary purpose of any band program is the preparation for and participation in public performances and contests.

Public performances: Most dates for public appearances are announced weeks and even months in advance. Excused absences from public appearances will be granted in cases of genuine emergency only, such as serious illness of the student or death in the family. Please call if such an emergency arises. Jobs, family trips, etc. do not justify absences.

An unexcused absence from any public appearance is very serious and will be dealt with on an individual case basis. No person may remain in the performing band that is unfaithful in attendance.

Band rehearsals: The bulk of our work will be done during the regular band and ensemble periods. DO NOT ask to be excused from this period except in emergencies, where you are urgently needed. School policy will prevail in dealing with unexcused absences and tardiest during all rehearsal times. If a student has two (2) or more unexcused absences, that student may be

moved down within his/her section and/or to a lower band.

Concert Season Rehearsal Times: 4:30 – 6:00 pm – (or at the discretion of the director)

Wind Ensemble & Symphonic Band & Concert Band

BAND OFFICE

The band office is the nerve center of the band hall. Band members must refrain from congregating in the office at all times unless they have business with the directors. Any time the director has visitors in the office, all band members must refrain from interrupting. School policy applies concerning use of the phone. Band members must ask the director's permission before using the phone.

Band members who have business in the office should first knock and ask for permission to enter. Never enter the office without permission or when a director is not present.

ELIGIBILITY - EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY

House Bill 72, Section 1, subchapter Z, Chapter 21, Education Code reads as follows:

Sec. 21.920 (b) "A student enrolled in a school district in this state shall be suspended from participation in any extracurricular activity sponsored or sanctioned by the school district during the grade reporting period after a grade reporting period in which the student received a grade lower than the equivalent of 70 on a scale of 100 in any academic class.

Extracurricular activities as stated above include UIL Contests, All-City Band, All-Region Band, Solo and Ensemble Contests, parades, band festivals, and certain special concerts. All students are eligible to play in the concerts that are given throughout the school year on school grounds.

CONCERT ETIQUETTE

Since performance is a major objective of any band, concert etiquette must be learned and practiced.

1. While in the audience, one should remain seated until the end of the performance. Having people walk around is very distracting to the performers and to other members of the audience.
2. While a group is performing, there should be no talking in order to allow the other people

- to enjoy the concert.
3. At the end of each selection, the audience should applaud. Shouting or whistling is not acceptable.

Stage Etiquette for Chamber Ensemble Performances

I. Entering the Stage

- A. Come in quickly in the order you will be playing
- B. Stand at your position on stage and SMILE!!!!
- C. Do not put your music on the stand until the group has bowed.
- D. When all players have reached their positions, the last one onto the stage will lead a group bow.
- E. You will be able to sit down at this point.
- F. Now music may be placed on the stands and arranged.

II. After the last note

- A. All players should stand as soon as the piece is over.
- B. The same person who led the bow before will lead the group in this final bow.
- C. SMILE!!!!!! (whether the piece went well or not – remember that if a mistake was made, most of the audience will not know about it unless you signal it with your facial expressions)
- D. After the bow pick up your music and leave the stage quickly. Leave in the same order that you came in.

III. Concert Attire (Dress)

- A. Let the audience know you value their attendance by wearing nice clothing.
- B. Girls – If not wearing issued Concert attire;
 - 1. Wear a nice blouse (no bright or distracting colors or patterns).
 - 2. A skirt or slacks (*skirts: below the knees* – people in the front row will be about 3 feet below the stage)
 - 3. If you wear a skirt, please wear hose.
 - 4. Wear nice shoes (no sandals, casual wear, or tennis shoes – no Dr. Martins)
- C. Boys – If not wearing issued Concert attire;
 - 1. Wear slacks (no jeans).
 - 2. Wear a nice button down shirt (long sleeve) with a tie.
 - 3. Wear nice dress shoes (no tennis shoes or boots)– if you don't have nice shoes, wear your black band shoes)
 - 4. Wear long dark socks (no white socks)

Hopefully all students will appreciate the opportunity to hear other groups perform. Should there be a problem with any student during a concert, that person may be asked to leave and may not be allowed to perform on the next concert.

Remember that you must set an example of personal discipline. Be polite. Politely applaud

regardless of your impression of the performing group. Do not be negative.

STUDENT LEADERS

The Charger Band maximizes our resources and encourages student leadership. To this end there are a number of positions open to upper classmen. Their duties are as follows:

Drum Majors

-Directs the marching band, both on and off the field. They are considered the directors' assistants and are the students responsible for the morale and discipline of the marching band.

- a. Drum major auditions will be held at the end of the year in preparation for the upcoming marching season. Incoming freshman are not eligible to audition. The Director of Bands will choose a panel of judges (band directors from schools other than Veterans Memorial High School). These judges will evaluate students wishing to audition for the position of drum major and assistant drum major. In order to try out for drum major, you need to have auditioned for the All-Region Band. In addition all drum major candidates must have been eligible every 6 wks. prior to the audition and maintained a high attendance rate for all classes.
- b. A maximum three and a minimum of one student will be chosen for the positions of the Drum Major, assistant drum major and Drum Major field assistant. In order to sign up for drum major auditions, a student will need to speak with the director of bands and fill out an application. Students will need to conduct a piece of music that has been chosen in advance. The judges, to determine leadership abilities, will interview the students.
- c. Drum majors are expected to maintain the highest level of integrity throughout the entire school year, as they are ranking representatives of the band. If the integrity of a drum major is in question, whether scholastically or morally, the Director of Bands reserves the right to remove an individual from his position and that position will be replaced with the next candidate selected in the original audition.
- d. The Director of Bands reserves the right to approve the judges' selection of drum major or assistant drum majors. This will be based on the student's past musical performance, and overall behavior in the Veterans Memorial Band.

Head Librarian

The head librarian directs the music library staff. They make sure the music library is in proper order and functioning correctly. They direct the preparation, distribution and subsequent collection of music folders and music pouches for both concert and marching season.

Loading Crew Captain

The head of loading crew directs the loading crew while maintaining safety of loading crew members while loading and unloading equipment from the instrument truck. They are responsible for the careful packing of equipment to ensure safe travel.

Uniform Staff Captain

The head of the uniform staff is responsible for maintaining the uniforms of the Veterans Memorial Band. They will issue uniforms and maintain a constant check of uniform status. Students will check out uniforms from the Head, uniform staff for cleaning purposes (for further information regarding uniforms, please see **UNIFORM**)

Squad Leaders

The directors chooses the squad leaders. They are chosen for their leadership ability and marching skills. They are expected to teach marching fundamentals to all band students to whom they are assigned. They are expected to demonstrate leadership and set an exemplary example at all times. Squad Leaders are charged with maintaining morale and discipline within their sections of the marching band. They derive their authority from the directors and drum majors. Their job is to correct and teach throughout the marching band rehearsal.

SECTION LEADERS

Section leaders shall be the first chair player in the section. Each position will be held by virtue of leadership and playing skill. Performance tests, personal discipline, and attitude determine the position. The section leader's duties will include:

1. Helping others in their section.
2. Reminding section members of sectionals
3. Assisting the director during rehearsals.

CONTESTS

The Veterans Memorial Band and its directors feel that placing students in competitive situations is an important part of student growth and achievement. Therefore, we participate in several different types of competitions.

UIL MARCHING BAND CONTEST

The UIL Concert Marching Band Contest is a very important event each year. The Marching Band performs an 8-minute marching show for three (3) judges. The band directors of the UIL region select these judges. These judges are selected based on their excellence as band directors.

TMEA ALL-REGION BAND & ORCHESTRA

The TMEA All-Region Band is a performing organization that uses the best high school band players throughout the region. Members of the TMEA All-Region Band are selected based on an audition of prepared music. Those band members selected for the band will be involved in a clinic and concert under the leadership of a well-known conductor. It is an extreme honor to be selected to this event. All Veterans Memorial band members are encouraged to participate. Extra credit will be given for this event. Successful completion of this audition process leads to Area and TMEA All-State organizations.

UIL CONCERT & SIGHT-READING CONTEST

The UIL Concert Band Contest is a very important group event. Each band performs three (3) prepared pieces of music for three (3) judges. The band directors of the region select these judges. These judges are selected based on their excellence as band directors. The band then sight-reads a piece of music for a different set of judges.

INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT

Each band member will be expected to keep his or her instrument in excellent condition. Grades will be given for periodic inspections. All cases will have the band member's name clearly marked on both sides and ends.

-Woodwinds

1. Keep instrument free of dust.
2. Check pads weekly for worn or torn skins
3. Keys should be oiled and wooden instruments should be bore oiled at least twice a year. Never perform either operation without instructions from one of the directors.
4. Mouthpieces should be cleaned daily. (Things you can't see start growing.)

5. Instruments should be swabbed clean after every use.
6. Double reed players should have 2 playable reeds at all times. Clarinets and saxophones should have 6 playable reeds at all times. Playable means no chips or cracks and looks new.
7. Cases should remain clean.

-Brass

1. Your instrument should be washed yearly, inside and out. Do not perform this task without instructions from your director.
2. Mouthpieces should be cleaned daily. (See Woodwinds #4)
3. Tuning slides should be greased weekly.
4. Trombone slides should be lubricated with the slide cream as necessary.
5. Valves should be oiled as needed.
6. Cases should be kept clean.

-Percussion

1. All percussionists should have at least one pair of snare drum sticks (2B/SD1 Generals), one pair of xylophone mallets (Musser, M-3/M203), and one pair of timpani mallets. (Vic Firth, generals), a stick bag. The percussion instructor can assist in the acquisition of sticks, mallets, and bags.
2. All percussionists are responsible for keeping all equipment clean and in good working order.

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

School instruments will be supplied to give the band a well-balanced instrumentation. It is the duty of each band member playing a school instrument to take the best possible care of it. Those persons using school equipment must fill out an agreement of use form, have it signed by the parent, and return it to the director. Any damage you cause to school equipment will be repaired at your expense.

INSTRUMENT INSURANCE

You are strongly urged to insure your personal instrument. Insurance may be purchased from an insurance company recommended by the directors. You might check with your insurance representative about whether your homeowner's policy covers personal or school instruments. Be sure to have a written record at home of the make, model, serial number, and finish of your instrument. This information is necessary if something should happen to the instrument. The Veterans Memorial Band and its directors are not responsible for the loss or theft of your personal property in the band hall. Please do not leave any valuable items out in the open. Keep them in your locker, locked with a proper lock and/or leave them at home.

UNIFORM

Uniforms will be worn by all performing bands at all public performances. When in public, the uniform is to be worn complete at times. You may not remove any part of the uniform when you are in the public eye and can be identified as a member of the Veterans Memorial Charger Band. When there is doubt, always ask the director.

Nothing is to be sewn, ironed, or pinned on your uniform.

The following are needed to complete the uniform:

1. Black band shoes (purchased at the beginning of the year)
2. Long black socks (no other colors or markings)
3. Wind Short (purchased from the Band Boosters)
5. Cotton gloves (provided by the uniform staff)
6. Veterans Memorial Band shirts (purchased from the Band Boosters)
7. The band shirt, black band shoes, wind shorts, and long black socks are called **fatigues**.
8. The Veterans Memorial Band uniform is cared for in the following manner:
 - a. Your uniform stays in the Veterans Band hall at all times.
 - b. **NO JEWELRY!** (watches, earrings, rings, bracelets, etc.)
The only exception will be senior class rings.
THERE ARE NO OTHER EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.
 - c. You will wear black socks and black band shoes with your uniform. To clean your black band shoes, you may use a plain soap and water. **NO BLACK SHOE POLISH.** If the shoes become too scuffed or worn, you will need to purchase a new pair.
 - d. You will wear the band T-shirt under your band uniform jacket.
 - e. You will be assigned a rain coat with your uniform. It is to be used only in the event of rain when in uniform.
 - f. Uniforms will be distributed before a performance. You will line up in the band hallway in single file. You will be wearing your long black socks, black band shoes, white T-shirt, wind shorts, and no jewelry. The uniform staff will check to see if you are equipped with the correct under-uniform. If you are incorrectly dressed, you will not get a uniform.
 - g. Your band hat is a very expensive piece of equipment. It must remain in the hatbox when not in use. The band hat, when worn, is to be worn in the correct manner befitting the uniform of the Charger Band.
 - h. Once you return your uniform after a performance, it will be hung up with the pants and coat correctly placed on the hangar so as not to wrinkle the uniform. Failure to hang up your uniform correctly will result in your paying a fine of \$1.00.
 - i. **NO food** will be eaten while you are in the stands. During 3rd quarter break, you may consume food and beverages.
 - j. Your uniform pants must be 2" from the ground. We know this looks like "high-

waters," but it will make our band look very sharp. When hemming up the pants, DO NOT CUT THEM!

- k. Keep your uniform clean. If it becomes dirty, check it out from the uniform staff and take it to the cleaners.

BAND TRAVEL

PERMISSION FORMS

The band members will be traveling for band events throughout the year. In the back of this handbook is a permission form. It should be taken home and signed by parents. This is necessary before a band member can leave campus.

TRAVEL OFF CAMPUS

All travel by the Veterans Memorial Charger Band is subject to the travel guidelines set forth by the Brownsville Independent School District School Board.

Throughout the year, the band travels off campus to football games, concerts, contests, and auditions. As a member of the Charger Band, you are an ambassador of our school, community and city. You are expected to maintain the highest standards when you are representing the Veterans Memorial Charger Band.

All trips, concerts, and activities outside of scheduled classes are considered a privilege and not a right. Student must follow all lawful instructions given by the Band Directors at all times during band activities. Failure to comply with **ANY** of the requirements listed in this handbook, the Veterans Memorial High School Student Handbook, the BISD student code of conduct or Local, State, or Federal laws may result in the loss of any or all of these privileges. Account balances will also be forfeited as outlined in the refund policy. These decisions will be made by the director of bands.

BAND BOOSTERS AND FUNDRAISING

BAND BOOSTERS

The Veterans Memorial Band Boosters Association is a 501(3) (c) non-profit organization sanctioned by the Internal Revenue Service. The Veterans Memorial Band Boosters Association is a non-profit organization composed of band parents that assists the band directors with fund raising and chaperoning for the band.

There are many times during the school year when the band will need the support and help of parents. The band boosters welcome all parents to attend band booster meetings. Band members will take a notice home of all band booster meetings.

The President of the Veterans Memorial Band Booster Association chooses chaperones, for the football games. Chaperones for other activities will be chosen based on volunteer hours. The booster members that have the greatest number of hours will be asked to chaperone. The director of bands will set the required number of chaperones each activity.

FUNDRAISING

The Veterans Memorial Band Boosters Association sponsors fundraisers for the band students throughout the year. Fundraisers and due dates are discussed with the students prior to the beginning of the fundraiser. Students who do not pay by the deadline place an unnecessary burden on the boosters. Due dates are necessary as there are deadlines for deposits for trips.

Members of the Veterans Memorial Band will have an opportunity to take a trip of some type each year. Each member of the Veterans Memorial Band will have an individual account established and will be responsible to earn their way. If the student and parents do not wish to fundraise, they may pay directly into their respective accounts. Payments may be made with cash, check, or money order. Please make checks payable to “Veterans Memorial Charger Band.” Account balances are not transferable. Unused balances will become property of the Veterans Memorial Band Boosters Association. Any refunds of direct payments will be based on the tour companies refund policy. Deposits are not refundable under any circumstance.

The director of bands will, at the beginning of the school year, establish payment deadline dates. These payment deadline dates must be strictly adhered to as we are obligated to make our payments to the travel agency.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

SENIOR JACKETS

Senior jackets shall be awarded to a band student during their senior year as a band member

provided they fulfill the following criteria. The band member must have participated in the Veterans Memorial Charger Band program for four years or eight traditional semesters. The equivalence will be accepted from students transferring into the Veterans Memorial Band from other programs. In the case of early graduation the reward may also be presented. The student must have participated in ALL scheduled performances, rehearsals, and music activities commensurate with the level of assignment. The BISD policy on absences will determine an excused absence. The student must be passing band and instrumental ensemble class with a current minimum grade average of 80. They must be a member in good standing with the organization as per the guidelines agreed to in this handbook. Dropping band classes or dismissal from the band classes will forfeit the award. The student must have cleared all financial responsibilities to the band. In all cases the award is the property of the Veterans Memorial Band and will be considered ON LOAN until the completion of all the requirements and graduation of the student.

Each senior candidate will sign an agreement stating these guidelines upon their being measured for the senior jacket at the end of their junior year.

SUMMER BAND

Approximately four (4) weeks before school begins, all (grades 9-12) band members will participate in a session of summer band. Band members should plan to attend. If previous plans conflict with summer band dates, a note from a parent is necessary. These summer band sessions mark the first rehearsals of the new school year.

LOST AND FOUND

Any items left in the band hall overnight become the property of the Veterans Memorial Charger Band and will be turned to front office. Students will have an instrument locker provided. Locks must be purchased. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure locker is locked/secured once issued.

ITEMS NOT COVERED IN THIS HANDBOOK

You are expected to follow all lawful directions given by band directors and the student leader staff. Any violation of BISD or Veterans Memorial High School code of conduct may cause a student to lose their privilege to participate in all “out of classroom” activities. Any students assigned to Alternative School will be barred from all “out of classroom” band activities. Any students assigned to ISS may be barred from any “out of classroom” band activities at the discretion of the director.

B.I.S.D does not discriminate on basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or provision of services, programs or activities

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE VETERANS MEMORIAL CHARGER BAND HANDBOOK

We have read and understand the band guidelines. We agree to abide by these guidelines as members of the Veterans Memorial Charger Band. We fully understand and accept all guidelines and consequences in the band handbook.

PRINTED NAME OF STUDENT

Parent/Legal Guardian
Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date