



PARENT/STUDENT MARCHING BAND HANDBOOK

2020-2021

Welcome to the Victor J. Andrew High School Marching Band program! The band program has enjoyed a long and distinguished reputation for outstanding performances at state and national competitions. The heart of our success has been the hard work of intelligent, responsible, and self-disciplined students.

It will be a year of excitement, hard work, fun, and new opportunities for challenge and personal growth. We will learn a little more about ourselves and learn that we are capable of doing so much more than we ever thought possible. We will come together as parents, students, and staff to work towards a common goal of education and excellence. Our mission is to teach life lessons through the experience of music. We are excited you have chosen to participate in the marching band activity and look forward to working with you to provide life-changing experiences.

This handbook has been created to provide you with a resource for the marching band season. There are several activities, curricular and extra-curricular, that are supported by the band program. We have tried to cover as much information as possible, but please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions. Veteran parents are also a great resource and have a wealth of knowledge regarding the program.

Parents, let us be the first to welcome you to the Victor J. Andrew High School Band Department. By virtue of your child participating in band, you are now a member of the Andrew Music Parents Association. We hope you will choose to be an active part in your son or daughter's experience by volunteering, attending practices and performances, and becoming involved in the many volunteer opportunities available.

You may reach us at the following emails:

Name	Title	Email
Mary McCarthy	Department Chair	mmccarthy@d230.org
Mark Iwinski	Band Director	miwinski@d230.org
Alan Barone	Percussion Director	abarone@d230.org
Kassie Pierson	Color Guard Director	kpierson@d230.org
Marie Kole	Music Parents President	bandmom2021@gmail.com



Vision Statement

To support the Directors in creative positive, educational experiences that develop leadership, integrity, creativity and respect in oneself and towards others.

Mission Statement

It is the mission of Andrew Music Parents Association to assist the Directors and school system in providing our students with the best music education possible while supporting them morally and physically. This includes apprising students of the opportunities available through program participation. We will strive to find ways to enable students to participate and enjoy the program's benefits. It is our aim to promote a spirit of fellowship and good will with all areas of the school district, while encouraging our students to be exemplary leaders and ambassadors for the entire school community.



Table of Contents

Description of Bands and Activities	4
Google Calendar	6
Charms	6
Fees	6
Winter Programs	10
Fundraisers	11
Social Media & Videos	12
Marching Band Policies and Procedures	12
Color Guard Policies and Procedures	15
SAT/ACT Testing Dates	18
Attendance Policy	19
Andrew Music Parent Association	20
Things You Should Know as a Parent	24
Preparing for The Real Cost of Marching Band	26
Your Very Own Marching Band Dictionary	28
Band Members' Wisdom and Survival Tips	30
Marching Band Tour Schedule 2020	31
Marching Band Supply list	32



Description of Bands and Activities

Curricular

Concert Band

The Concert Band is our beginner level class designed to give more individualized attention to students. The daily work and music selected will be used to advance the technique and musicality of the students to a higher level. The literature is moderate in nature and is selected to enhance the knowledge of styles and periods of music.

Symphonic Band

The Symphonic Band is a select group, based on audition and past performance. Symphonic Band is designed to challenge the intermediate musician and expose them to literature that will continue to enhance their technique and musicality.

Wind Symphony

The Wind Symphony is the top ensemble at Victor J. Andrew High School. Members are selected based on audition, past performance and instrumentation needs. It is intended for those students with a serious interest in developing their abilities on their instrument and the study and performance of college level music. After school or evening rehearsals occur between October and May as we prepare for contests and performances. It is highly recommended that students study privately on their instrument.

Extra/Co-Curricular Activities

Jazz Ensemble

Jazz Ensemble is composed of students who desire to express different styles of jazz music. Several performances are given during the school year, which include festivals, community performances, and concerts. This group will meet after school two days a week from November thru May. Performances will be listed on the band calendar and usually occur during the week or a weekend. No prior jazz experience is required, and all instruments are included!

Pep Band

The Pep Band is voluntary and consists of approximately 30 students that play at basketball games. Pep Band is a great way to meet new people, play fun music, experience basketball games with your friends and get a free t-shirt!!



Marching Band

The Marching Band is a mandatory ensemble (unless waived by a fall sport) composed of students from all instrumental band classes. The rehearsal schedule begins in June and goes through the end of October. This ensemble performs at football games and Saturday competitions. It is recommended that family vacations for marching band members be planned for June to mid July. All band students must be in attendance for all rehearsals from band camp through the completion of marching season. (Participation in a VJA Band Class is required.)

Color Guard - Marching Band (Fall) Season:

The Color Guard is a performance group that accompanies the marching band by being the “visual music”. We spin flags, rifles, sabers, and dance to interpret the music. Participation in the Color Guard program does not require any experience. There is no school class for this program. The rehearsal schedule coincides with the marching band rehearsal scheduled beginning in June and going through the end of October.

Winter Percussion

Winter Percussion is designed to offer students another venue in which to perform. Students are challenged to execute advanced techniques and skills. Auditions may be required, depending on the number of students interested in performing and the needs of the program. Rehearsals are in the evenings and weekends beginning in November. Contests begin in February and end in mid-April. Participation in a Curricular Band/Music Course is required.

Winter Guard:

Winter Guard builds on the skills learned over the fall and takes them to the next level. Members are given the opportunity to shine in their own spotlight and compete on an international level. The season begins in November and ends in April. We perform indoors to recorded music, which is another bonus of the winter guard season! No wind! 😊



Google Calendar

All Band Department rehearsals, performances and activities can be found on the Band Google Calendar. You can get the link to the calendar on the Music Parents website.

<https://www.vjamusic.com/>

Charms

www.charmsoffice.com is the website that we use for communications and student accounts. You'll log in using the school code vjaband (all lower case) and your child's Student ID#. Incoming freshman, if you do not know your student ID#, please contact Mr. Iwinski. Please keep all contact information for students and parents updated in your Charms profile so that you won't miss any communications. Sometimes Charms emails go to spam, so be sure to check your junk mail and add Charms as a trusted sender.

Fees & Volunteer Commitments

Band Fees are collected at the beginning of each season. You can pay in full or follow the fee schedule listed. The fees are used to help pay for contest entry fees, travel expenses, uniforms, props, additional instructional staff, music, and most other expenses.

Please keep in mind that the AMPA is made up of a group of caring volunteers who contribute countless hours toward the success of your child. Be respectful of their time by paying your fees in a timely manner; that way, they can keep the focus on the program and the students.

If you have a financial hardship or a change in your financial situation (i.e. job loss), please communicate with our Treasurer as soon as possible. All matters will be kept confidential. We appreciate you doing your part to be in communication with the AMPA when you have a specific need.

Currently, we do not have scholarships or waivers available to students who wish to participate in a band program but have a financial need. The AMPA is diligently trying to establish a fund in order to provide this option to families in need. We hope to be able to roll out this opportunity in the near future.

In addition, the AMPA owns all costumes and uniform parts (excluding Winter Percussion and Winter Guard) that are issued to the students. If you are not up-to-date on your payments, the AMPA reserves the right to hold a costume and/or uniform causing the student to not be allowed to perform. There is no reason for this to ever happen with proper communication and timely payments!



Fees are non-refundable. Your registration is a commitment to participate for the entire season.

Students who choose not to participate at any point for any reason, including students suspended for behavior, not fulfilling academic eligibility requirements, or the unfortunate event of an injury will not receive a partial or full refund and will be required to complete any payments remaining.

Payment Methods:

Zelle Pay (preferred): Zelle Pay is a bank to bank transfer and works like a digital check of sorts. There are no fees involved in using this option and the instructions are as follows:

1. *Go to the Zelle Pay website at <https://www.zellepay.com/>
2. Click on the "Send Payment" option.
3. When it prompts you for the recipient's info, enter email nancyevens@hotmail.com. Please be sure this is spelled correctly or we will not receive your payment.
4. Enter the amount you'd like to pay, your information, students name, and click submit.

*If your personal bank uses Zelle, you can also send a direct payment to nancyevens@hotmail.com through your online banking platform.

Personal Check: Please make all checks payable to Andrew Music Parents. Please put your check in an envelope and have your student drop it in the yellow box hanging on the wall in the band room. Please write your students name in the memo line on your check. 2020 season, please mail checks to Nancy Evens.

Fundraising credits: You may apply fundraising credits to any payment. If you choose to use this option, please send an email to our treasurer Nancy Evens at nancys.vja@gmail.com requesting to use your credits.

Credit Card: If you choose to pay using a credit card, please send an email to our treasurer Nancy Evens at nancys.vja@gmail.com to request a PayPal invoice. There will be a 3% fee charged on all credit card transactions.

Discounts & Rebates:

Sibling Discount: If you have more than one student in the program, you are entitled to a 10% discount off the second enrolled student's fees. This applies when both are in Marching Band and/or both are in Winter Percussion or Winter Guard. All fees must be paid within the published payment schedule to receive the discount. The discount will be given on the final installment amount on the second enrolled students balance.

Early Bird Rebate: If you pay in full by the second installment date, you will receive a \$25 credit at the end of the season. This would also apply to each sibling in the program.



Volunteer Commitments:

Each Marching Band, Winter Guard, and Winter Percussion family is expected to serve the required number of shifts for events and contests that we host. Sign up information will be sent via Charms and posted in the VJA Bands Facebook group for each event. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age. The coordinator reserves the right to limit the number of students or volunteers based on event needs.

If unable to fulfill your volunteer commitment shifts, a penalty charge (on top of the current season fee) will be assessed.

Activity	Required Event	Dates	Penalty if not fulfilled
Marching Band	VJA Invitational	September 18 & 19, 2020	\$50
Marching Band	Fall Craft show	November 6, 7, & 8	\$50
Winter Guard	Spring Craft show or Pancake Breakfast	Dates TBD	\$50
Winter Percussion	Spring Craft show or Pancake Breakfast	Dates TBD	\$50

One family member is required to work 1 shift at the events listed. We encourage you to sign up for additional shifts as you are able. Additional family members are always welcome to join the fun and volunteer as well!

While we also need your help for football games and competitions, volunteering for those events does not fulfill the above volunteer requirements.



Marching Band 2020 total fees = \$800

(\$200 Summer fees and \$600.00 Season Fees)

(In a traditional year, we would go away for band camp at a cost of approximately \$450.)

Payment Due Dates:

June 5, 2020	\$200
July 3, 2020	\$200
August 7, 2020	\$200
September 4, 2020	\$200

*Color Guard members, new members and those that need a new pair of shoes will need to purchase new shoes at their own expense (approximately \$40-50). AMPA will coordinate the purchase.

What the Season Fee and Fundraising Profits Cover:

Independent Contractor Fee – Music

Independent Contractor Fee – Drill

Independent Contractor Fee – Staff

Sound Design Fee

Competition Fees

Drum Major Camp

Equipment (includes percussion and guard)

Food (meals & snacks for trips)

Band/Guard Uniforms

Props

Housing (overnight trips) (no overnights in 2020 due to COVID-19)

Truck Rental & Gas

General Supplies & Repairs

Electronics Purchase & Repairs

DCI Drum Corp Trip (2020 DCI season has been cancelled due to COVID-19)

Office Supplies/Postage

Charms Website Fee

Website & Credit Card Hosting Fees

Accounting Services

NSF Fees

Miscellaneous Expenses



What the Summer Fee Covers:

- Independent Contractor Fee – Staff
- Dinner and snacks during band camp week
- Striping the practice field
- Light Tower Rentals
- Medical Supplies
- Office Supplies (dot sheets, laminating, printing, etc)

Winter Programs

The winter seasons typically start a week or two after marching band season ends. If your student plans to audition/participate in these activities, please make sure to plan for the fees and rehearsal schedule. Both programs typically hold rehearsals during *Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Spring Break*. Please do not make any travel plans until you get a season schedule.

Winter Guard = TBD (2019 dues \$850.00)*

November 2020	\$300 (estimate)
January 2021	\$275 (estimate)
February 2021	\$275 (estimate)

*Additional costs TBD (Food, etc)

Winter Percussion = TBD (2019 dues \$950)*

November 2020	\$250 (estimate)
January 2021	\$350 (estimate)
February 2021	\$350 (estimate)

*Additional costs TBD (Food, etc)



Fundraisers

We are fortunate to have an active and productive music parent organization that raises thousands of dollars each year to help offset the cost of all music department activities. We are able to do so through several fundraising events that are a group effort put on by the AMPA and its members. These events include: Dine out nights, Savers Drive, VJA Invitational, Craft Shows, Pancake Breakfast, and Golf Outing. Please support the fundraisers by participating and volunteering your time.

Product Sales - These fundraisers allow students to earn a portion of the proceeds toward their personal music accounts. These fundraisers are driven by student participation; many students have paid their fees IN FULL by participating.

Fundraiser sales planned for 2020-2021:

June/July--Laser engraved Insulated Cups and Tumblers

August--Century sale begins, delivery in September

September--Butterbraid sale begins, delivery in October

October--Christmas wreath sale begins, delivery in late November

January--Driven coffee sale begins, delivery in February

February--Ted's Greenhouse flower sale begins, delivery in May

Scrip Program - Earn credit towards your student account by paying for your everyday purchases with gift cards purchased through the Shop with Scrip program. You pay face value and get face value. However, each retailer offers a rebate, which will go back to your student account. For example, if you purchase a \$100 Home Depot gift card, which has a rebate of 4%, you will receive a credit of \$4 in your student account. When you plan ahead and use Scrip whenever you can, the credits add up quickly. Scrip has over 700 retailers, so there is something for everyone. To sign up, go to <https://www.vjamusic.com/scrip-program>. *This is the fastest and easiest way to start earning credit towards your fees! The credits add up quickly.*

Amazon Smile - AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. To select a charity, sign in to smile.amazon.com on your desktop or mobile phone browser. From your desktop, go to Your Account from the navigation at the top of any page, and then select the option to Change your Charity. Or, from your mobile browser, select Change your Charity from the options at the bottom of the page. Search for Andrew High School Music Parents Association and select us as your charity! Make sure you start all your Amazon shopping at smile.amazon.com.



Social Media & Videos

As a member of a Victor J. Andrew Band activity, you are expected to portray yourself, the team, the school, and the school district in a positive manner at all times. Do NOT share any videos of practices or performances publicly on social media. There are strict copyright laws regarding sharing of music.

Anyone is welcome to follow our public Facebook pages: [Victor J Andrew High School Bands](#), [Victor J Andrew Percussion](#), and [Andrew Music Fundraising](#).

All parents and supporters are encouraged to join our private Facebook group [VJA Bands](#). This group is a great resource for parents. There you'll find a place to ask questions and get answers, get helpful tips from veteran parents, and view photos of events throughout the season. You must request to join the group and answer the questions before you are added by a group admin.

Marching Band Policies and Procedures

Attendance - Attendance is mandatory at all band performances! Any absences from all or part of a rehearsal will require a written excuse from parents or a doctor giving an explanation for the absence. Notes must be given to Mr. Iwinski or Mr. Barone and should be turned in in advance of the absence when possible. Students with jobs will be expected to be at all rehearsals; inform your employer accordingly.

Fees and Payments - Individual accounts are set-up for each student. These accounts will be used by the student for band fees. The accounts are funded by payments into the account and/or money earned through student fundraisers. You can view your child's account anytime at www.charmsoffice.com

School-Owned Instruments & Equipment - All school-owned instruments and equipment that is borrowed by a student is the student's responsibility. Students and parents are required to sign a liability form for the school instrument they have been assigned. Loss or damage to this equipment will be charged to the student if this is a result of student negligence. For example, if a student falls during a marching band practice and damages the horn, the student will not be held responsible. The student *will* be responsible if he/she is "messing" around during a break and damages the instrument.

Music and coordinate sheets - Students are responsible for their own supplies (reeds, valve oil, drum sticks, etc). One set is issued, and replacements needed can be acquired through the visual leads on the student leadership team.



Early is On Time - We ask that members arrive at rehearsal 10-15 minutes early including Zoom rehearsals (Summer 2020). This allows them enough time to prepare for rehearsal, get equipment, clear rehearsal areas, rehearse any parts they need extra work on, etc. Please plan your rides accordingly

Rehearsal Clothing - Students should wear comfortable and weather appropriate clothing to all rehearsals. A white t-shirt will be required at most rehearsals. This helps the staff when watching the visual formations. No crop tops or shirts cut out on the side. Good athletic shoes are a must.

Water Jug – Students should bring a ½ gallon or 1-gallon water jug with their name clearly written on the jug to every rehearsal. This is necessary for longer rehearsals. It can get hot, especially in the summer, and it's important to stay hydrated.

Bus Rules - Students must follow all school bus rules and be respectful of the driver and chaperones. Carry-ons must fit under the seat or in your lap and sound equipment must be used with headphones. Nothing can be in the aisles or blocking an emergency exit.

Leaving event site with a parent – Students are required to return back to VJA with the band after a performance. Should it be necessary for a parent to take their child home from an event site, Mr. Iwinski MUST be notified 24 hours or more prior to the event and the student must check out with their bus chaperone. The student is responsible for making arrangements for their uniform and equipment to be unloaded and put away by another band member once back at Andrew High School.

Calendars and Itineraries - Marching Band runs from June thru October. While we try to be as consistent as possible with practices, there are times that slight changes need to be made during the season. Watch the calendar on the band's website for the most current schedule. Better yet, sync the marching band google calendar to your own electronic calendar for automatic updates.

Uniforms - The marching band and fall color guard uniforms are property of the AMPA and are kept at the school. They are not to be taken home by students. The uniform fee is included in the band fee and includes the uniform, band t-shirt (yours to keep), and one set of performance gloves if needed.

Uniform Additional Purchases - All members will need to provide their own black short sleeve, no collar, tightly fitted t-shirt (many students prefer the moisture wicking shirts), black over the calf socks, and black spandex shorts to be worn under the uniform. A skull cap is recommended if needed to keep hair back under the shako. Color Guard members, new members and those that need a new pair of shoes will need to purchase new shoes at their own expense (approximately \$40-50). AMPA will coordinate the purchase.



VICTOR J. ANDREW
MARCHING BAND

Care of Uniforms - Students are not permitted to eat or drink (except water) in uniform. Always be aware of your surroundings and avoid sitting or leaning against anything that might stain the uniform. Students are responsible to hang their uniform properly and return it to its assigned spot after each performance. If repairs are needed, the student should inform the uniform mom as soon as possible.



Color Guard Policies and Procedures

The Victor J. Andrew Color Guard is a Band Department activity and part of the Andrew Music Parents Association. We strongly encourage Color Guard parents to get involved with the association!

In the fall, the Color Guard is a part of the Victor J. Andrew Marching Band. All practices, performances, communications, parent meetings, fundraisers, and events listed for "MB" or Marching Band pertain to the Color Guard as well.

In the winter, the calendar will list the Color Guard practices and performances as "Guard" for Winter Guard.

Attendance - Attendance is mandatory at all practices and performances and is crucial to our success! Any absences from all or part of a rehearsal will require a written excuse from parents or a doctor giving an explanation for the absence. Notes must be given to Kassie Pierson and should be turned in in advance of the absence when possible.

Please manage your time wisely and plan ahead. Students with jobs will be expected to be at all rehearsals, inform your employer accordingly. Plan family parties, vacations, doctor appointments, etc. around rehearsals. Schoolwork, big tests, papers due, etc. are not excuses to miss rehearsal.

Last minute absences (illness, family emergency, etc.) should be communicated from the parent not the student.

Makeup Work - If a student must miss a rehearsal, they are required to learn and rehearse all missed information BEFORE the next rehearsal. They need to contact another member of the Color Guard for the information. This is the student's responsibility.

Early is On Time - We ask that members arrive at rehearsal 10-15 minutes early, including Zoom rehearsals (Summer 2020). This allows them enough time to prepare for rehearsal, get equipment, clear rehearsal areas, rehearse any parts they need extra work on, etc. Please plan your rides accordingly.

Practicing on your own is CRUCIAL to our success as a team.

Attire - Members must wear form-fitting clothing that they can move comfortably in. No jeans. Shorts must be spandex or have spandex underneath them during practice.

Hair - All hair is to be pulled up OFF of your face and neck, no dangling hair. Use headbands, pins, or whatever means needed to make it happen. We need to see your faces in order to get the highest level of performance out of you.



Shoes - Buy a GOOD pair of athletic tennis shoes. Gym shoes with arch support (not flat bottomed) or dance shoes are suggested; no flip-flops, high tops, or sandals. We practice on a black asphalt parking lot most of the time; proper shoes help prevent injuries.

Gloves - Gloves must be worn at every rehearsal while spinning (we will hand out gloves in June). Students will be given 1 pair of gloves per season. If they need any extra pairs or lose theirs, they can be purchased.

Knee Pads - We encourage the members to get a pair of knee pads. We will be doing work on the ground and this will help protect their knees.

Water Bottle/Jug - Bring a water bottle to every rehearsal. A gallon size water jug is recommended for longer rehearsals. It can get hot, especially in the summer, and it's important to stay hydrated.

Equipment - All equipment is property of the AMPA; if it is lost or "stolen" members will be responsible for replacing it. Sabres cost approximately \$200.00 each, so this can get expensive. Each student is responsible for the color guard equipment they use in practice and performance. Please make sure your name or guard number is on everything and do not leave them unattended. Be responsible in caring for your equipment and watch where you lay it down to keep it away from dirt, spills, etc.

Coordinate sheets and guard specific supplies - Students are responsible for their own supplies. One set is issued and replacements needed can be acquired from their student leaders.

Fees & Payments - Individual accounts are set-up for each student. These accounts may be used by the student for band fees. The accounts are funded by payments into the account and/or money earned through student fundraisers. You can view your child's account anytime at www.charmsoffice.com

Bus Rules - Students must follow all school bus rules and be respectful of the driver and chaperones. Carry-ons must fit under the seat or in your lap and sound equipment must be used with headphones. Nothing can be in the aisles or blocking an emergency exit.

Leaving event site with a parent - Students are required to return back to VJA with the band after a performance. Should it be necessary for a parent to take their child home from an event site Mr. Iwinski MUST be notified 24 hours or more prior to the event and the student must check out with their bus chaperone. The student is responsible for making arrangements for their uniform and equipment to be unloaded and put away by another band member once back at Andrew High School.

Calendars and Itineraries - While we try to be as consistent as possible with practices, there are times that slight changes need to be made during the season. Watch the calendar on the band's website for the most current schedule. Better yet, sync the marching band google calendar to your own electronic calendar for automatic updates.



Costumes - The color guard costumes are property of the AMPA and are kept at the school. They are not to be taken home by students. Color Guard Members may need to purchase additional undergarments depending on the costume but, please wait until instructed by Kassie to purchase these items. Color Guard members will also be responsible for the cost of their own shoes.

Care of Costumes - Students are not permitted to eat or drink (except water) in costume. Always be aware of your surroundings and avoid sitting or leaning against anything that might stain the costume. Students are responsible to hang their uniform properly and return it to its assigned spot after each performance. If repairs are needed, the student should inform the uniform mom as soon as possible.

Social Events - There are excellent opportunities for social connections and team building activities led by students and parents throughout the season. These additional "meetings" and activities are not sanctioned by the guard or band program. They are encouraged, but should never be presented as mandatory. The Color Guard parents and members should represent the program with professionalism and conduct themselves and the events with health, safety, and a positive experience in mind.

Social Media - As a member of Color Guard you are expected to portray yourself, your team, your school, and the school district in a positive manner at all times. Do NOT share any videos of practices or performances publicly on social media. There are strict copyright laws regarding sharing of music.



SAT and ACT Testing Dates

Please be sure to schedule dates to take the SAT or the ACT that do not conflict with a band obligation. It only adds to the stress of the day if the student is missing or will be rushing to an event after the test. Please give your child the best circumstances for taking these stressful tests by choosing a date without a band conflict.

SAT Testing Date	Band Conflict
August 29, 2020	Marching Band (rehearsal)
September 26, 2020	Marching Band (competition)
October 3, 2020	No band conflict (Homecoming)
November 7, 2020	No band conflict
December 5, 2020	Possible Winter Percussion/Winter Guard
March 13, 2021	Possible Winter Percussion/Winter Guard

ACT Testing Date	Band Conflict
September 12, 2020	Marching Band (competition)
October 24, 2020	No band conflict
December 12, 2020	Possible Winter Percussion/Winter Guard
February 6, 2021	Possible Winter Percussion/Winter Guard



Attendance Policy

School Day

1. A student who is a marching member must be accounted for by 9:00am to be eligible to practice or perform that day.
2. A student who is a marching member may not leave the building at any time during school hours to be eligible to practice or perform that day.
 - a. Campus students must be present for all high school classes for that day.
 - b. The exceptions for these two policies would be for an approved field trip or other academic class departure, a doctor's appointment, or for a family emergency.
 - c. If there is a question on what constitutes a "family emergency", the student should check with their director. For example, taking an Illinois Department of Motor Vehicles Driver's Test or having lunch with a parent, relative, or friend is not considered an emergency.
 - d. Upon return from a doctor's appointment, the student must have a note from the doctor's office indicating the start time and the end time of the appointment.
3. Any student who is a marching member who is serving a full day of "in-school" or "out-of-school" suspension will not be eligible to practice or perform on that day.
4. Saturday and Sunday events are not affected by Friday's attendance.

Practice/Performance

1. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances are mandatory and important for the team's success.
 - a. Please notify directors in advance if there is a conflict.
 - i. Doctor's notes will be required.
 - ii. Students with jobs will be expected to be at all rehearsals and performances, inform your employer accordingly.
 - iii. Please be sure to schedule dates to take the SAT or the ACT that do not conflict with practice or performances.
 - iv. Failure to attend a rehearsal immediately prior to a performance for any reason other than illness or extenuating circumstance will result in the student being suspended from the performance.



VICTOR J. ANDREW
MARCHING BAND

ANDREW MUSIC PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Executive Board

Director of Bands **Mark Iwinski** miwinski@d230.org

Provide vision for all band programs and music parents organization. Oversee financial goals and direction of the program. Identify opportunities for growth and leadership within the programs. Ensure compliance with Victor J. Andrew High School rules and regulations. Evaluate scholarship needs and distribution with AMPA Board.

President **Marie Kole** bandmom2021@gmail.com

Communicate with the Band Director and all other officers of the organization. Supervise, direct, and control the business of the Music Parent organization. Schedule and preside over all meetings of the Executive Board. Supervise all board members and committees. Ensure compliance with by-laws. Evaluate scholarship needs and distribution with Director of Bands and AMPA Board. Liaison within the following areas to provide guidance and feedback to the Executive Board: Contest Coordinator (Marching Band, Guard, Percussion)

Vice President I **Lauren Garrett** lbetts35@gmail.com

Liaison within the following areas to provide guidance and feedback to the Executive Board: Prop Construction/Set-up, Prop Crew Volunteers (Marching Band, Guard, & Percussion), Truck Rentals, Truck Drivers, Invitational parking lots, loading/unloading trucks, set-up and moving of props on and off the field.

VP President II **Deb Jennings** vjabandmom@gmail.com

Liaison within the following areas to provide guidance and feedback to the Executive Board: Uniforms Moms (Marching Band, Concert Band, Guard, & Percussion), Pit Crew for football games and marching band shows, Banquet (Marching Band), Social events, Snacks/meals (Marching Band). Communicate with parents of students with food allergies.

Treasurer **Nancy Evens** nancys.vja@gmail.com

Maintain checkbooks, student accounts, and other records of financial accounts of AMPA. Responsible for timely deposits and disbursement of money and assets of AMPA. Maintain and report budgets to the Executive Board and at music parent meetings. Prepare records for tax preparation and audits. Oversee the timely collection and deposit of all funds from donations, contributions, fundraising, concessions, trips, and other sources of revenue. Evaluate scholarship needs and distribution with Director of Bands and President.



Secretary **Mariann Stanton** marianns111@gmail.com

Create and maintain minutes at both Executive Board and Parent Meetings. Be familiar with the by-laws of the AMPA. Prepare and send out all correspondence as directed by Executive Board. Maintain records, by-laws, and policies. Update ongoing Executive Board Calendar. Ensure proper communication with parents as needed. Maintain and communicate volunteer commitment records and fees.

Fundraising Chair **Nicole Gordon** nmg821@gmail.com

Secure fundraisers and obtain approval from Executive Board. Coordinate fundraiser details, volunteer needs, and marketing tools. Communicate fundraising information to parents, students, and staff. Seek and obtain corporate sponsors. Manage sponsor packages and communicate sponsor donors to the Music secretary for promotion in programs, decals (as needed) on semis, and logos on show shirts.

Area Coordinators

Assistant Treasurer - open

Assist to Treasurer with timely collection and deposits of funds from concessions and host events. Collection of mail from post office box as needed. Other duties as delegated by Treasurer.

Band Camp Coordinator - open

Communicate with directors for vision of activities and dates. Plan and implement band camp social activities. Request volunteer needs. Request facility and equipment needs. Coordinate decorations, drinks, and paper good requests with Vice President II. Manage purchases as needed within budget.

Banquet Coordinator - Marching Band - open

Create and distribute order forms. Coordinate catering/donation needs. Request volunteer needs. Request facility and equipment needs. Coordinate decorations. Communicate with Executive Board about agenda.

Uniform Coordinator – open

Coordinate and implement uniform fittings, maintenance, cleaning, repair and alterations as needed for all performing groups. Communicate with director, staff and President to manage the fitting, ordering, and distribution of items within needed time frames. Coordinate, train, and prepare the dress and grooming for performing groups as requested by the band, guard, and percussion directors. Request volunteers when needed. Manage records and inventory to be resold at a later date.

Chaperone Coordinator - open

Recruit, coordinate, train, and oversee all chaperones. Communicate with directors for volunteer needs for each event. Request volunteers when needed via Charms and Facebook group page. Work with medical team to ensure first aid kits are stocked and are on each bus. Assist directors as needed in communications to students.



Color Guard Coordinator - open

Communicate with the director, coordinate activities, send communications to parents, attend parent meetings. Communicate with Executive Board members with guard needs/interests/concerns. Oversee guard Uniform Moms, Prop Crew, Meal coordination, Chaperones. Plan Guard Banquet and Social Events.

Concession Coordinator(s) - Lauren Garrett lbetts35@gmail.com

Manage all concession events (Craft Shows and Invitational). Request volunteers. Request food purchases with VP II and Treasurer. Coordinate cash box needs with Treasurer and/or Assistant Treasurer. Maintain sign in records for volunteers. Communicate with VP I about equipment repair and needs. Yearly inventory of equipment.

Invitational Coordinator - Marching Band - open

Recruit and train area leaders. Recruit and train volunteers. Make hotel/air reservations for judges. Secure golf carts, port-o-lets, EMT's and police officers as needed. Serve as the "go-to" person for all chairpersons. Coordinate volunteer scheduling.

Freshman Liaison - open

Coordinate with the Executive Board about freshman communications and engagement at May and June meetings. Continual communication with freshman parents and students (explanations and what to expect).

SCRIP Coordinator – Amy Leistra allpamchef@yahoo.com

Create promotional materials and communications for these fundraisers, place orders and manage distribution of gift card and SCRIP programs. Share sales report and rewards earned with the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.

Invitational - Sponsor Program - open

Reach out to local businesses sharing the sponsor program and benefits, manage sponsor level benefits and communications for advertising needs (programs, website, etc.) Share sales report and rewards earned with the AMPA.

Fundraising - Spirit Wear Coordinator - open

Promote and coordinate sales of spirit items (show shirts, VJA shirts/jackets, blankets, mugs, etc.).

Medical/First-Aid Coordinator - open

Maintain travel first aid kits and ensure accessibility at all events. Maintain records of medical and emergency information. Coordinate medical team with first aid knowledge to have a volunteer travel with each group.

Winter Percussion Coordinator - open

Communicate with the director, coordinate activities, send communications to parents. Communicate with Executive Board members with percussion needs/interests/concerns. Oversee percussion Uniform Moms, Prop Crew, Food/Snacks, Chaperones. Plan Percussion Banquet and Social Events.



Photography & Social Media Coordinator - open

Recruit and manage a team to photograph at all the various performance and social events. Coordinate with directors as needed for scheduling around rehearsal and performances. Manage the Facebook and Social Media sites.

Prop Crew aka "Band Dads" - open

Communicate with directors on vision for construction needs, time frames, and budget. Coordinate work sessions. Maintain a clean and safe work environment within garage. Communicate with directors and coordinate performance day needs and volunteers. Aid contest coordinator(s) with parking, signage, and electronic/construction needs.

Website Coordinator - Donna Baggio djb3515@comcast.net

Oversee website content and updates. Communicate with directors, staff, and Executive Board for content.



Things You Should Know as a Parent

Your child is probably more capable than you realize. Even if you have all the time in the world, you will start to feel like a personal servant if you don't ask your kids to take some responsibility for their own stuff. Water jugs, lunches, props, laundry -- it never ends. Your child can make a sandwich, fill up a water jug, and set out their "stuff". If you are inclined, help them create checklists to remember what they need to bring. It will be a lot of stuff, so be ready.

Get out of the car and come join us. Be respectful of practices going on, but come on in and see what is happening. Frequently, there are parents working on projects or hanging around. It is a great time to make introductions and let people know you are new to the band program and would like to get involved. Park the car and come to the practice lot or field.

Once we start competing, usually the last 15-20 minutes of practice will be a run thru of what the kids have learned. Thursday nights are the traditional nights to view, but you will find parents at the practice lot most nights. Watching the evolution of the band and the kids is really inspiring.

Learn to manage your time and teach your student how to manage theirs. You WILL be busy -- especially during weeks of competitions. You will receive a lot of information in emails, and you MUST find a way to keep track of everything. More importantly, your child will have to balance band and school work. Many of the band kids are honor students, and the time management skills they learn will help them throughout their life.

Bring cash, warm clothes and something to sit on. Most school functions require that you bring cash. Invationals (defined later) charge admission, anywhere from \$5-\$15 per person. You MUST bring cash. Concessions are cash only, as are some souvenir vendors.

Make friends with parents from other schools. Our staff, students, and parents work extremely hard to put the best possible show together and so do the staff, students, and parents from other schools. We compete on the field but, off the field we support and encourage each other. Show your appreciation and cheer loud for ALL groups.

Take care of your Uniform Mom. If you were to make a drawing of the perfect Uniform Mom, she'd have six arms, three heads, and a heart of pure gold. Remarkably, Uniform Moms accomplish amazing things without the extra appendages. These are the people who are there for all last-minute needs as the students dress, fix their hair, and wash their uniforms after performances. They dispense wisdom, encouragement and sometimes treats all with laughter and generosity. They are the people on the front lines who make sure your child is ready to go on the field. This is a job that deserves far more recognition than most understand, so please ask how you can assist.



Band Directors are people, too. But they are BUSY people. They work long hours and their main focus is the kids. If you have a specific concern about your child and the band program, set up a time to discuss it. If you need general information, directors are probably NOT your best resource. Try a fellow parent first (another Band Parent) or a member of the music association board.

Constructive criticism isn't always easy to swallow. Band requires dedication and discipline from all students. The job of the directors is to help your child excel. Directors speak loudly, pointedly and sometimes without pleasantries. When mistakes are made, especially due to inattention or lack of effort, there are consequences. Try to relax and allow the process to work. Encourage your child to do their best, listen, and work hard. Everyone wants your child to be successful. You will learn this as you move through the season.

We can't do it without you - volunteer and come to the music parent meetings. You will be asked to commit time, energy, donations, and band fees to the program. Unlike many sports programs, our band programs must have parent volunteers for the programs to run smoothly. Volunteering is the best way to get to know other parents. Plan to attend as many music parent meetings as you can. Whether you're a new or veteran parent, you will always gain insight into the activity that your child loves. It is time well spent. About volunteering - no experience necessary! No, REALLY! There are tasks that require specific skills, but most opportunities do not. If you can fill a cup with lemonade, hand out a program, use scissors, sew, or build props, you have all the skills you need. There is so much to do, you are bound to find something you actually enjoy doing. You will be helping keep YOUR band fees down and have fun doing it. Trust us, we've been there.

Log into CHARMS, join the FACEBOOK GROUP and READ YOUR EMAIL. This could be said a thousand times and still not be said enough. As the season progresses, you will get multiple messages each day. READ THEM. CHECK YOUR EMAIL DAILY, especially during the time leading up to performances and events. You may not always completely understand the emails but READ THEM. If you are completely lost, you can ask a Music Parent Board Member for more information.

Yes, it's worth it! All of the rides, time, and effort that as a parent, you put into getting your child to practices are worth every second. You may not be able to appreciate that in the beginning. Your child may get discouraged at first. There is a lot of repetition, hot sweaty days, failures, and disappointments. Then the show starts to come together, and everything changes. There is a new energy, a new excitement. This is the point where they will either LOVE band or plan a different activity next year. Most of the kids LOVE band by the end of the season, so make them tough it out for the whole season. It will be worth it.



Preparing for The Real Cost of Marching Band

Okay, so you've come to terms with the sticker shock of your band fees. You've accepted that you are giving your child a once in a lifetime experience that will teach them discipline and help them build friendships that will last a lifetime. Every effort has been made to keep the costs down. Schools with similar programs charge three to four times what you are paying. How much you spend beyond the band fees is completely up to you. Here are some additional mostly optional expenses you may not anticipate. By no means is this a complete list but, hopefully it helps you make plans and decide what's best for your family.

Additional Uniform Items - Each marching band member will need the following items to go under their uniform: black short sleeve, no collar, tightly fitted t-shirt (many students prefer the moisture wicking shirts), black over the calf socks, and black spandex shorts. To secure hair under the shako, a skull cap can be purchased or use bobby pins, hair ties, and hairspray. Color Guard members, new members and those that need a new pair of shoes will need to purchase new shoes at their own expense (approximately \$40-50). AMPA will coordinate the purchase.

Color Guard members might need additional undergarments depending on the costume. Makeup and hair items that might be required: bobby pins, hair ties, gel, hairspray, eyeliner, mascara, eyelashes & nail polish remover. Wait for instructions from Kassie before purchasing anything.

Snacks and Meals - Depending on your budget, you will be making or buying lunches for your child on full day practices. Some events may require your child to purchase food en route or on site; we will advise to send money with them.

Pop Drop - Each student will be asked to supply cases of water and soda/pop to be used for meals and events. We will have 2 "Pop-Drops" during the season at which you will be asked to drop off these items. The Pop Drop dates will coincide with rehearsal dates and times. An email will be sent out to advise which section will be dropping off at each date, what kind of pop/soda they are to bring, and where to bring it.

Accessories (Reeds, valve oil, sticks, etc.) - These items are your student's responsibility. They are expected to have them with them at all times.

Marching Band Shirt - Students will be given a marching band t-shirt that they will be expected to wear when traveling with the group or at other events when the full uniform is not required (i.e. pep rallies). Think of it as part of the uniform. Please write your child's name on the inside of their shirt when you receive it. If your child loses this shirt during the season, you will be responsible for purchasing a replacement. When the season is over, the shirt is yours to keep.

Show Shirts/Spirit Wear Items - If you can manage it, invest in show shirts for your family. They run about \$10-\$15 each and we wear them throughout the season. We sell a variety of other spirit items throughout the season. (Blankets, decals, shirts, hoodies, mugs, etc.) Please watch your email for



information on these. We will have a dedicated website where you can purchase and pay for the items. They will be shipped to our Spirit Wear Chair who will pass them out and send them home with your child.

Band Jackets - Band jackets will be available to purchase online at the beginning of the band season. Notice will be sent out with instructions and the time frame to order. The cost is approximately \$60.00. Most students will wear them at events and during the school year.

Invitational Fees - Invitationals and Competitions require you to pay entrance fees for each person, usually in cash. Fees generally run about \$7 per person, but they can be higher. Keep in mind that, just like our Invitational, these events are usually fundraisers for the host school's music program. Even if you can't make it to every invitational, try to make it to a couple. You will see how the show progresses throughout the season and our band really loves to hear the roar of their fans as they take the field.

Chaperones - We love our chaperones but, being a chaperone does not guarantee a ticket into an event. You might be required to purchase a ticket at an event. This happens very rarely and notice will be given ahead of time if it does.

BOA Tickets - Bands of America Regionals can be 1 or 2 day events with prelims and finals competitions. Tickets can be purchased online at www.musicforall.org and will run around (\$15-\$25 each). There is a prelim competition before you get to the finals. All require you to buy a ticket (some are general admission.) Tickets also may be purchased online at www.musicforall.org. We will not be participating in BOA in 2020.

Invitationals and Souvenirs - You will be tempted or begged from your child to load up on themed T-shirts and sweatshirts at Invitationals and competitions. If you can afford it, they are great mementos. If your budget is a bit strained, consider saving your money for items more personal or specific to your child's interest like professional pictures or band T-shirts.

Section Items - (coordinated by student leaders, not the Music Parents Association.)

Section T-Shirts - The students usually design a section shirt/hoodie which is totally separate from the show shirt done through the Music Parents. Section leaders collect the money (\$15-\$20)

Breakfast/Dinner - Each section likes to go out to dinner the Friday before or breakfast the morning of events. The section leaders will communicate to the students where & when. Each child brings money for their own meal and tip (\$10-\$20 each).

Gifts - Students like to present their section staff with a gift at the end of the season. Money will usually be collected by a section leader. (Varies depending on gift selection and number of students contributing.)

Videos - We will view videos with the students but will ask that they are not published or shared due to copyright laws. So, sit back, watch, and enjoy as many live performances as you can. We usually post a link on our closed Facebook group where you can view the performances. Some events (like BOA) may have live streaming available, often for a fee. If you are unable to attend the events, this is a great way to see the performance.



Your Very Own Marching Band Dictionary

Auxiliary: Aka the Color Guard.

Prop Crew aka "Band Dads" - Parents who help create and build props, assist with driving, loading and unloading the trucks and trailer when we travel and help move the props on and off the performance field.

Pit Crew aka "Band Moms" – Parents who help set up and clean up meals prepared for the students, bake treats, wash uniforms, chaperone trips, move pit equipment on and off the field.

BOA (Bands of America aka Music for All): Usually pronounced BEE OH A (initials). You will hear the term BOA used quite a bit. It is a national program for various types of music — not just marching bands. There are State competitions, Invitationals and a BOA Regional, but the granddaddy of them all is the BOA Grand National Championship in Indianapolis at Lucas Oil Stadium. Don't be fooled into thinking since BOA is held in Indy that it is not a big deal. Bands from all over the US come to this event.

Captions: Awards are given in competition to acknowledge specific excellence in the areas of Music, Visual, and General Effect. There is a relationship between these awards and the final competition scores, as the captions are subcategories used in the overall scoring. It is possible to win the caption awards and still not win the competition, although more often the winner of General Effect is also the winner of the overall competition. Invitational scores will usually be announced.

Charms - The website that we use for communication and tracking student accounts.

Class A, AA, AAA, AAAA: Designations assigned by school size for purpose of competition.

Cryogenic black crumb rubber: You will likely never hear these little black crumbs referred to by this name. The kids have various pet names for them such as 'turf pellets.' You will experience this 'fill' material for as long as your child is in marching band. It is on the football field, so it collects in their shoes and is tracked through your house. It looks, as one parent described, like "small mouse droppings." Have your child empty their shoes outside. You and your carpets will thank us for it.

Dot Sheets: Your child will be given and required to maintain a collection of laminated dot sheets that are their personal map of the show. The dot sheets contain their specific show coordinates, spot on field, relation to other people, relation to the form, direction that they come from and the direction they move. They also include counts for each set and extra notes such as step size and visual details. If a show formation is the map, the dot sheets are the "YOU ARE HERE" for each band member.



Euphonium: The euphonium (Euphs) is a valve instrument. Victor J Andrew Marching Band marches with euphoniums and baritones instead of trombones.

Itinerary: The detailed schedule for a contest day which is posted on the band's Facebook page along with being emailed out from Charms usually Monday or Tuesday of a competition week.

Invitational: Marching Band contest hosted by a high school.

Mellophone: Mellophone is a brass instrument that is typically used in place of the French horn in marching band.

Music Parents: The success of the band program is threefold: the dedication and talent of the staff, the hard-working dedicated students, and the ongoing efforts of the volunteers. Make no mistake; the music parents are made up of parents (and some alumni band parents and grandparents) that work year-round to make sure the band has everything they need to be successful.

Percussion: All percussion instruments including the pit.

(The) Pit: The non-marching portion of the band. Includes keyboards, certain drums, some percussion instruments, and whatever instrument that is not practical to march. Also called front ensemble.

Plumes: The feathers that are on the marching band hats.

Uniform Moms: The moms and sometimes dads that help the band look incredible when they step on the field for competition. They work behind the scenes fitting, sorting, repairing, cleaning, adjusting uniforms, giving pep talks, and making sure students have what they need.

Winds: Not to be confused with woodwinds. If you can blow wind through the instrument it is a wind instrument. The wind section consists of everyone except the guard and percussion.

Props: Used to enhance the shows. Flags, hoods, sabers, all manner of structures, are all props. We make most of our own show specific props and it is a huge undertaking. Whether we need carpenter skills or sewing skills depends on the show. Watch for requests to help out.

Sections: Each instrument is a 'section.' Each section develops its own pride and personality. At some point most sections will design their own T-shirt to identify themselves.

Shakos: The hats worn by the marching band with the big plumes in front.

VJA Invitational: An invitational that we host here at Victor J. Andrew High School in September. All hands-on deck are needed to continue to make this a huge success as it is our largest band fundraiser of the entire year.



Band Members' Wisdom and Survival Tips

1. ALWAYS be on time, which really means 10-15 minutes early.
2. When in doubt, stop talking.
3. Show respect to everyone and listen to what 'veterans' have to say. They're probably right.
4. Don't expect to know everything the first day. Even people who have marched before still have things to learn.
5. Take things seriously, but not TOO seriously. In the end, "It is only high school marching band".
6. We are very good at what we do because we can focus when we need to.
7. Stay well rested, fed, and hydrated.
8. Always have all your materials on you or close enough that you can get them quickly.
9. Know how to work, but also know how to relax. Know that the two NEVER occur at the same time, EVER.
10. Keep up on your schoolwork. Take every opportunity to do your homework. On the bus, extra time in class, at appointments - do whatever it takes. Be as productive as possible.
11. You will be called out eventually. Don't be afraid. When it happens, just speak up and don't worry about being wrong.
12. Always trust the instructors. Especially when you think they aren't right. They are rarely wrong.
13. You may want to quit. But DON'T!



MARCHING THUNDERBOLTS 2020 TOUR:

8/28/20	Home Football Game
9/5/20	Mini-Camp and Preview Performance
9/11/20	Home Football Game
9/12/20	North Central College Invitational
9/18/20	Home Football Game
9/19/20	VJA Invitational
9/26/20	Romeoville Marching Band Invitational
10/2/20	Homecoming Football Game
10/10/20	Lincoln-Way Invitational
10/17/20	Illinois State Marching Band Championships
10/23/20	Home Football Game (Senior Night)



Marching Band Supply List

Everyone:

- ½ Gallon or 1-Gallon Water Jug (GOES HOME EVERYDAY!)
- Athletic Shoes (excludes sandals, Converse, Nike Shock, Vans, high top)
- Sunblock SPF 30 or more
- Sunglasses
- Hats
- Ankle socks
- Nutritious Snack (Granola bar, fruit)
- Athletic Shorts (no jeans, ever)
- White T-Shirts (Several for rehearsals)
- Deodorant
- Tuner/Metronome
- Dot Sheets (you will know what those are when they are handed out)
- Binder
- Music (when provided)
- PENCIL!!!
- Good Attitude



Brass:

- Gloves
- Valve Oil
- Clean Instrument
- Mouthpiece
- Slide Grease



Woodwinds:

- Working Reeds
- Clean Mouthpiece
- Cork Grease
- Swab
- Preferably Plastic Clarinet

Performance Supplies:

- FULL LENGTH (OVER THE CALF) Black Socks (several pairs)
- Compression shorts (ex: spandex) – Black
- Compression shirt, no collar, black
- White or Black hair ties for gloves
- Super Drill Masters (purchased via Music Parents, fitting this summer)
- Should you have longer hair, you will need, hair gel or hair spray, hair ponytail holders and bobby pins