

What to Expect on Football Game Day

Students need to bring all of their band equipment with them to school on game day. This includes:

- Garment bag
- Black band shoes and socks mid-calf length or higher
- Black performance t-shirt
- Black performance shorts
- Flip folder and music
- Instrument
- Water jug filled with water

Right after school, students will go outside to practice for an hour. Before dinner, the students will go through a check off of their band equipment with their section leader. Then they will eat dinner provided by the Hospitality team. Dinner will be served in the VHS cafeteria from 5:00 to 5:30. Students will walk together to the stadium for home games, or board the buses for away games. Times change according to specific schedules assigned by band directors.

Once at the stadium, the students are there to do a job. The first half of the game they are mentally preparing for the halftime show. During the 2nd quarter they will move to the warm up area of the field and begin warming up for the performance. After their half-time performance, they will return to the stands where cold drinks will be served to them. The second half of the game is a little more relaxed in that they play more stand tunes, receive a visit from officers of the visiting band, etc. Bathroom breaks are done in groups under chaperoned supervision in the second half of the game.

- **Security of the Band Area:** Students have a specific spot in the stand where they sit during football games. They are not allowed to move about the stands, or talk to spectators, family, or friends. Yes, band parents: this includes all of us too. Students are there to do a job and need to be fully focused on the drum major(s) and band directors. The band area in the stadium will be roped off and only band students, band staff, and working chaperones will be allowed in this area. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- **Gate Keepers:** Joyce Crider, Rick Crider, Christy Hall and/or Wayne Hall, band booster vice presidents / Presidents, are the “gate-keepers” to the band area. Please do not ask them to enter or cut through the band section. There is expensive equipment and many personal belongings in the band area that need to be safeguarded, and we can’t always know who parents are. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.
- **Food and Drinks:** We ask parents not to bring concession stand food or food from home to the students. No food or beverages are allowed and will be taken up by the band directors, drum majors, or chaperones.
- **Messages to Students:** If you need to get a message or keys to your student during a game, flag down a chaperone and they will be happy to do it for you. The chaperone will make the delivery at a time that does not interrupt playing.
- **Requests to Sign-Out a Student:** If for any reason your student will be leaving the game early, or will not be returning to VHS on the bus after an away game, please send a request in writing to the band director (note to school or e-mail). Remind your student to bring all of their belongings to the stadium with them since they will not have access to the band hall or the buses until after the game. A parent/legal guardian must show proof of identification (driver’s license) to one of the band booster president/ vice presidents (Joyce or Rick Crider, Wayne or Christy Hall). They will record your ID number and have you sign your student out. If there is no note that the student is leaving early, or if someone other than a parent/legal guardian signs them out, permission will be needed from a band director. This rule is for your child’s safety so please respect the process and be patient with chaperones. There are no exceptions.
- **Return to VHS Band Hall:** At the end of a home game, students will return together back to the VHS band hall. At the end of an away game, students will return either to the buses or the trailer to load up and return to VHS. It is always late for us! We are usually the last ones to leave the stadium – sometime the lights even get turned off on us before we leave! Plan on extra time after the students return to the band hall.
 1. Students have to take off their uniform, hang and place correctly on the racks (lack of responsibility here will earn a student community service hours to give).
 2. After an away game, students unload the trailer and help bring in the equipment.
 3. After everything is done, the video tape of the halftime show is shown in the band hall. Each game night they will see the progress that all of their hard work has accomplished and they are so motivated to make it better each time. Parents are welcome and encouraged to join in the festivities!

Go to the game, become involved, be supportive, and your child (and you) will reap the benefits!

GO BAND!