

VHS
Vision Dance
Co.
HANDBOOK



Vandegrift High School Vision Dance Company Handbook

Foreword

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

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

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

Our Vision...

The Vision of Vandegrift High School Vision Dance Co & Viper Band is to *Define the Standard* for ourselves in all we do.

Goals and Objectives

Mental and physical discipline

- Develop powers of concentration
- Memorize choreography & drill
- Learn techniques of preparation as they relate to group and individual performances
- Develop self and group discipline

Citizenship through group endeavor

- Develop leadership abilities
- Develop responsibility
- Develop ability to cooperate with others and to work as a team member
- Develop diligence
- Develop mutual respect

Physical conditioning

- Develop strength, stamina, endurance and coordination

Creative self-expression

- Express oneself in every performance experience

In addition to the State of Texas guidelines, the Vandegrift High School Vision Dance Co. will strive to:

- Provide any interested student with opportunities for dance knowledge, fellowship, and fun through participation in Vision Dance Co.
- Provide for the mental, physical, social, and emotional development of students
- Instill pride and discipline in each student
- Provide students with solo and group endeavors to achieve personal goals and satisfaction
- Provide basic psychological needs such as recognition, belonging, self-respect, and a feeling of achievement

Communication

The directors encourage positive communication and are willing to discuss any aspect of a student's progress in VDC with her parents. Specific directors' office phone numbers and email addresses can be found on the band web site at www.vhsband.com.

Auditions

All students are required to audition for VDC. The Director determines audition requirements, and directors will notify students of audition dates, requirements, and results. Outside professional adjudicators will serve as the evaluators during auditions. Audition material will reflect the director's anticipated performance level for the students. Students will be re-evaluated periodically for participation in select performance ensembles.

Conduct/Expectations

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

- Any behavior, which is not representative of good citizenship, as perceived by the band/dance staff, may result in the student's dismissal from the activity at hand as well as the VDC program. This also applies to the actions of student leaders in both public and private events.
- All students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the Ten Ethical Principles at all times. Display of profanity, temper, flagrant violation of rules, etc., will not be tolerated. Individual behavior during a band/dance function is a reflection of the group.
- Students will follow directors' instructions.

- Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area ready to work at the set rehearsal time with all equipment and all supplies for that daily rehearsal.
- Students will keep hands, feet, and other objects to themselves.
- Students will not use or play on equipment they do not own without permission from a director.
- Students will not touch, handle, borrow, or use anyone else's uniform, or personal belongings.
- Students should request permission to speak by raising their hand and waiting to be acknowledged. All rehearsals are expected to be extremely quiet so that time will be utilized wisely and as efficiently as possible.
- When allowed in the band hall/dance gym, either before or after school, students will not disturb any rehearsal in progress.
- Students will respect the property of others, and return their equipment to its proper storage place when not in use. Students should keep their equipment in the designated storage area, and keep said storage area clean and neat in appearance. Students who demonstrate great difficulty with this may lose the privilege of having a storage area in the band hall/dance gym.
- Students will not deface or mark on chairs, walls, lockers, mirrors, locker room, bulletin boards, etc.
- Students will not write on dry-erase board without permission from a director.
- Students will utilize their assigned locker for dancewear & personal belongings during rehearsals. Personal Belongings should not be brought into rehearsals unless requested by a director.

Internet

Maintaining a higher standard of conduct will also include ensuring that band member websites are appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Any communication such as MySpace, Facebook, photo sharing, emailing, or texting, etc., appearing on the internet is public domain, even if it is marked private. Members are responsible for their personal websites and postings, as well as posting from or on other students' websites. The areas of appropriateness will include but are not limited to profane, foul, or disrespectful language (abbreviated or alluding to), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing, references to alcohol, drugs, and/or tobacco, and postings (either verbal or photos) that could be interpreted as being negative or threatening towards other LISD teaching staff or band members, or that demonstrate poor sportsmanship or a disrespectful attitude towards other bands. Any such incident will result in review by the principal (or designee) and may lead to probation or dismissal from the band.

VDC members that violate the above guidelines shall be subject to the following:

- Upon confirmation of a first violation, the member will be asked to remove any offensive items from the website(s) and will be asked to give an apology and plan of action to deter this behavior to the principal, directors, and band members. Parents/guardians will be contacted and made aware of the offensive behavior.

- Upon confirmation of a second offense, the member will be asked to remove any offensive items from the website(s) and will be asked to give an apology and plan of action to deter this behavior to the principal, directors, and band members. Parents/guardians will be contacted and made aware of the offensive behavior. In addition, the student will be suspended from all Band/VDC activities for a period of 3 days to 3 weeks.
- Upon confirmation of a third offense, the member will be removed from VDC.

Care of the Band/Dance Facilities

Refreshments – No gum, food or drinks are allowed in the building except when authorized by the directors.

Litter – All trash is to be deposited in the wastebaskets provided.

Vandalism – Acts of vandalism or the willful misuse of school property will be dealt with severely and appropriately. Every VDC member is responsible to help the director’s monitor the facility and control vandalism, which includes writing or carving on walls, destroying school property, writing on locker room walls & mirrors.

Costume Closet – Absolutely no student is allowed in the costume closet without permission from the director(s).

Legacy Social Officer Closet – Are designed for the Legacy Social Officers. All others may not enter without director permission.

Cheer Closets – Are designed for the Viper Cheerleaders. All others may not enter without the cheer coach permission.

Offices – Please knock, and if you are invited in, you may enter. Otherwise, they are off-limits to students. Students may not use director’s phone or computer without permission.

Due Process

All Leander ISD students are entitled to due process in accordance with LISD guidelines. Our goal as a staff is to ensure that all students are treated fairly. Please contact one of the directors if you have any concerns. We will work with you to resolve problems.

Attendance

In order to have and maintain a high quality VDC program, attendance from all members is essential. While the VHS Vision Dance Co. follows all school and district policies and procedures, the following additional guidelines outline the attendance procedures and policies for the VHS band & Vision Dance Co. These attendance guidelines also apply to activities held outside of the school day.

Roll Check

Roll will be checked and documented promptly at the start of rehearsal.

Tardiness

Students not in their designated area at the appropriate time will be marked tardy. A tardy will be converted to a mark of absent 10 minutes after the rehearsal begins.

Excused Tardiness

Tardiness may be excused at the discretion of the directors. Tutorials, appointments etc. will not be an excuse for tardiness unless prior arrangements, with written documentation, are made and approved by a director.

Unexcused Tardiness

Students who have more than one unexcused tardy shall make up missed time at a time to be arranged by the director and may be subject to one of the following consequences at the discretion of the band directors:

- Loss of spot as a primary dancer
- Loss of dancing privilege (for one game) at a football game
- Requirement to stay after rehearsal or report early to next rehearsal to make up lost time
- Requirement to make up 15 minutes of fundamental dancing with her company leader

Absence

Students not present at the appropriate time may be marked absent.

Unexcused Absences

Students who have ONE unexcused absence shall make up missed time at a time to be arranged by the director and may be subject to one of the following consequences at the discretion of the directors:

- Loss of spot as a primary dancer
- Loss of dancing privilege (for one game) at a football game
- Requirement to stay after rehearsal or report early to next rehearsal to make up lost time
- Requirement to make up 15 minutes of fundamental dancing with her company leader

Attendance For Performances

Excused Absence

Absences will be excused at the discretion of the directors. Appointments, tutorials etc. will not be an excuse for absence. Absence due to personal illness requiring medical attention, death in the family, or other extenuating circumstances (approved by director) may be considered for excused status. Students who are continually ill may be required to provide a doctor's note releasing them from participation in order to ensure the well-being of the child and to reduce concerns of the band directors. If in doubt, an absence should be checked with a director.

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

Unexcused Absence

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

- Make up missed time.
- Loss of spot as a primary dancer.

- Loss of dancing privilege for one game.
- Loss of attendance privilege at one game.
- Removal from the Vision Dance Co. and loss of physical education credit.

Parents will be notified immediately.

Daily Supplies

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

- **Designated Daily Practice Wear**
- **Tennis Shoes**
- **Jazz Shoes**
- **VDC Water Jug**
- **Drill/dot book/lanyard/coordinate sheet**
- **Other equipment as needed (could vary from year to year)**

Eligibility

All LISD Bands & Dance Teams adhere to the eligibility rules and regulations as stated by TEA and LISD. Some VDC activities are designated as extra-curricular. Students participating in these activities are governed by eligibility requirements. A student shall be suspended from participation in all extra-curricular activities sponsored or sanctioned by the school district during the six week period following a grade reporting period in which the student received a grade lower than seventy in any class. Loss of eligibility does not take effect until seven days after the end of the reporting period. Ineligible students are not suspended from practice or rehearsal of extra-curricular activities. The student is not suspended from participation during the period in which school is recessed for the summer or any other vacation time.

Students may regain eligibility under certain circumstances. If a student has been suspended as a result of failing, he/she may regain eligibility by passing ALL courses in the third week of the affected grading period. Reinstatement of eligibility would occur seven days after the three week progress report period (see TEA/UIIL Side by Side).

Activities that are considered curricular components of any course are not affected by the eligibility law. Examples of these activities are all rehearsals and performances that take place as a regular extension of classroom instruction. Any performance that is competitive in nature or for which admission is charged is deemed extra-curricular.

For a list of courses that are exempt from eligibility requirements, please contact a director.

Grading Guidelines

LISD band programs have instructional objectives that relate to the mandated Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for grade level subjects or courses. These objectives are aligned to

address the academic skills needed for successful performance in the next grade or next course in a sequence of courses. Assignments, tests, projects, classroom activities, and other instructional activities are designed so that the student's performance indicates the level of mastery of the instructional objectives. The student's mastery level of these objectives is a major factor in determining the grade for a subject or course.

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

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

The following list is provided to give students and parent's examples of items that can be subject to grading. Additional assignments may be given at the discretion of the director.

- The student will receive a grade for each before or after school rehearsal during a grading period.
- The student will be on task and focused during all rehearsals.
- The student will have all supplies/dancewear/shoes for class & rehearsal.
- The student will be prepared to perform her part successfully.
- The student will be expected to improve individual dance skills.
- The student's individual skill development will be evaluated through rehearsals, performances & skills test.
- The student will be evaluated on improvement of company skills during daily rehearsals.
- The student will be expected to improve her performance fundamentals.
- The student will be evaluated for improvement of her dance fundamentals through daily observation during the warm-up part of each rehearsal and during class.
- The student will be expected to demonstrate correct posture, body placement & proper dance technique.
- The student will receive a grade for each performance during a grading period.

Travel Guidelines

VDC & the band will frequently travel on either school buses or commercial buses. Student conduct is expected to be at the highest level on any trip.

Students must travel to events and return from events on the bus. Any student wishing to arrive or leave with his/her parent must notify a director in writing with parent signature, prior to the event. Permission will be granted or denied based on the circumstances of the occasion.

Students must have all necessary forms (Medical/Travel Release) completed and on file with the band office to travel on any trip with the VDC & band.

While on the bus students will:

- Remain seated at all times.
- Sit properly in a forward position.

- Keep the bus clear of food, drinks, and debris (At times it may be necessary to eat a pre-game dinner on the bus. Every effort should be made to keep your area clean.).
- Keep all body parts inside the bus.
- Use only approved type/headset radios (no boomboxes).
- Remain silent when addressed by person in charge on the bus.
- Refrain from loud, boisterous talking, singing, screaming, whistling, inappropriate jokes, etc.
- No public displays of affection.
- Remain silent from the time they step onto the bus until otherwise instructed

Special Note:

Students are reminded that all performances start and conclude at the band hall. As a member of the band, you are a representative of your school. Always be on your best behavior. If you are in doubt about an action, do not do it! Your conduct at all times should be considered a good reflection on the school, the band, your home, yourself, and the community.

Chaperones

Adult chaperones are a great asset for the band program. Students will treat them as an extension of the band staff. Proper respect will be shown to all adults at all times.

Band Marching Season & VDC

Background Information

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

Marching Band Participation

As an integral part of the band program, Leander ISD's philosophy is that educationally, historically, and musically, marching band is an essential ingredient in a well-rounded music education in band. LISD believes that music students need to develop the ability to participate and perform in different ensemble experiences which, for band students, includes the marching band. As a result, marching band is required for all high school students who elect to take an academic band performance course. Philosophy regarding all aspects of high school band stems from TEA/UIIL guidelines which govern all Texas schools. VDC provides the visual elegance of the marching band show and serves as the auxiliary unit of the Viper Band.

Physical Education Requirement Credit

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

Marching Band an Integral Component of State Curriculum Requirements

The music and performance skills and techniques, along with the associated academic skills in the band program, are derived from implementation of the expectations found in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). The curriculum specifically includes requirements such as demonstrating musical skills and artistry, performing in different musical mediums, and experiencing music through a wider

range of music literature, which are addressed through the marching band. Each performance by the marching band provides students the opportunity to demonstrate musical artistry through the ensemble, individual music performance skills and techniques, marching performance skills and techniques, and critical thinking skills that include auditory, spatial, and visual awareness.

High Academic Standards Maintained by Students

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

Grading

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

Practice Time Limits

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

Rehearsal and Performance Schedules

Rehearsal and performance schedules are determined by each band staff and are published on the band's web site, www.vhsband.com.

Marching Band Positions in relation to VDC

Primary Dancers

Students who earn a position in VDC will carry the designation of primary dancer. A primary dancer is a student who:

- Successfully completes the audition requirements by the appropriate time.
- Demonstrates high quality dancing skills
- Is punctual in report times
- Is present at rehearsals and performances
- Maintains academic eligibility
- Represents the school, school district, band program, VDC and themselves with the highest possible decorum and behavioral standards

Special Note: Students who fail to meet the choreography memorization requirement may be penalized by one of the following: a) loss of position as a primary dancer, b) loss of performance opportunity, or c) performance as a marcher only.

Alternates

The dance directors will keep the number of alternates to a minimum; however, they are a necessary and vital aspect of our program due to the UIL “No Pass/No Play” rules and to prepare for possible substitutions due to injury, sustained illness, etc. Alternates will meet the same attendance, rehearsal, memorization, academic, and performance requirements of primary marchers. Specific drill may be written and music may be edited for those students who are not yet able to achieve the physical and musical demands required of primary marchers. This will help improve their individual skill level and will prepare them for future performance opportunities. As a dance/band staff, we are committed to providing performance opportunities for all students. However, the level of performance participation may be limited by eligibility and individual performance ability.

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

Marching Band Rehearsals

- Respect everyone on the marching band field - we are all working toward the same goal.
- Prior to all rehearsals, eat healthy and drink a lot of water.
- Be punctual. Aim to arrive 5 minutes before practice begins.
- Water breaks are meant for your health and comfort. DRINK WATER! Return on time after the whistle.
- Rehearsal will be silent at all times.
- Standing is the only acceptable position on the marching band field unless instructed otherwise (ex: when a director tells you to kneel while he gives instructions).
- Everyone will be expected to vocally count at all times.
- Pay attention to general instructions at all times. Listen attentively and respond appropriately.
- Fundamentals will make us successful. Therefore, we expect everyone to participate fully.
- VDC members should wear their coordinate book at all times. Your section leader will tell you where to wear them.
- Move when instructed quickly and quietly (ex: moving from set to set or after a discussion with a leader).
- “Attention” is eyes forward, no talking, no moving.
- When setting forms keep your feet together and mouth closed.
- Remain at attention until you are told to relax.
- “Relax” means silently standing in the ready position.
- When adjusting the forms, use your coordinate books at all times unless instructed otherwise.
- To keep your spot on the marching field, meet all choreography memorization deadlines.

Health and Safety of Band Students

The health and safety of our students is our first priority. Every effort will be made to keep our students out of harm's way at all times.

Extreme Weather Conditions - Lightning

A lightning detector is used at rehearsals, games, and contests to determine our activities. We, like the athletic teams, make it a practice to go inside when lightning occurs multiple times in a small amount of time within 8 miles of our location. Discretion is used to determine immediate threat, as we take lightning and the safety of our students very seriously.

Rain

Under rainy conditions, the VDC & band may still rehearse and/or perform at the discretion of the band staff.

Heat/Hydration

We stress to students the importance of hydration at all times, and especially in periods of extreme heat. During extreme heat conditions, we decrease the amount of time between water breaks and/or increase the amount of time used for the break. The weather conditions as well as the physical and mental conditions of our students are monitored continually and adjustments are made to accommodate whenever necessary.

It is very important that every student bring and use their own personal water bottle. Sharing water (and food) leads to the spreading of germs that cause viruses such as cold, flu, mononucleosis, and Hepatitis B as well as many other bacterial infections. Sharing water is not acceptable.

Nutrition

It is important for all students to eat healthy and well-balanced meals every day. During summer band camp, students need to eat a healthy breakfast every morning. Stay away from milk and greasy foods.

Students need to bring a healthy sack lunch to summer camp. We do not recommend fried foods, salty snacks, soft drinks, or sweets.

Drink plenty of water!

As the new school year begins, students should continue their healthy diet throughout the day. Continue to eat a healthy breakfast every morning. Eat a healthy lunch. Stay away from greasy foods such as pizza, chips, and candy during the school day. Lunch from the vending machines is not appropriate.

Students should continue to drink plenty of water throughout the day to stay well-hydrated for afternoon rehearsals.

Eating healthy meals and drinking plenty of water is essential so students can remain in good health.

Marching Band Performances

The primary performances of the marching band will be at the football games. The marching band will also perform at various competitive marching festivals and UIL Marching Contests, as well as possible local and national parades.

Leander ISD Marching Band Performance Guideline

The band directors in Leander ISD recognize that the health and safety of their students is a primary concern, as well as their scholastic performance in all of their subjects. The band/dance directors also acknowledge that the season for marching band competitive performances is contained within a brief but intense period of time during the months of September through November. Additionally, LISD recognizes the intrinsic value gained by the students from the pursuit of excellence in these programs.

After lengthy study of current practices of state and national marching band programs and to provide a balance of the above beliefs, LISD Marching Bands will participate in competitive/festival performances for no more than five consecutive weeks during a marching season. This guideline refers to competitive/festival performances involving the entire marching band and does not include performances at football games.

Performance Procedures

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

What to bring:

- Garment Bag
- Costume
- BodyTight
- Jazz Shoes
- Earrings
- Proper undergarments
- VDC windshorts
- VDC shirt
- Tennis Shoes
- VDC Bag
- Team Make-up & Eyelashes
- Hair Accessories (Hair spray, gel, hair net, hair tie, bobby pins)

- VDC Water Jug

Pre-performance Practice:

- Wear VDC windshorts, shirt, tennis shoes
- No fingernail polish
- No jewelry
- Bring all equipment (weather permitting): that means everything (drums, uniforms, etc.)

Uniform Inspection

Prior to student departure for a VDC/marching band performance, students must pass a uniform inspection. In order to board the bus, students must have complete uniform and all other components for the performance. Students who do not pass the uniform inspection may not be allowed to attend the event. Students not meeting uniform guidelines will be subject to disciplinary consequences.

Football Game Procedures

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

- Students will remain on campus after school on game days for a brief rehearsal and then for food attained by the boosters. This is in consideration of time, organization, and safety. Please do not ask for exceptions to this.
- Students will arrive at the designated report time.
- Students will load and be prepared to travel at the designated load time.
- Students will load the buses with all equipment needed for the performance. The company leaders will inspect all students boarding buses prior to departure. Students not meeting uniform & loading guidelines may be sent home and not allowed to participate. **Students will receive an unexcused absence for such occurrences.**
- Upon arrival at the performance area, students will put on all uniform components and prepare equipment for unloading. Students will unload buses when instructed to do so by a chaperone or director. Exit the bus in proper uniform as instructed by the directors, carrying all necessary equipment in garment bag unless instructed otherwise.
- Students will report to the entrance formation for final inspection. Upon instruction from a Drum Major, Company Capt or director, students will file silently into the stadium.
- Upon arrival to the seating area, students will remain standing until all band members have arrived and are prepared to be seated. Students will sit when instructed by a Drum Major or director. Students will sit in assigned seat and section. Students will remain in that seat and section at all times. Any movement in this bleacher adds risk to the safety of students and their instruments.
- Students must bring their VDC water jug into the stands with them. No other food or drink will be allowed in the stands during the game. Students will refrain from accepting food or drinks from parents, relatives, or friends. Parents: please do not offer refreshments to your children.

- Restroom breaks may be granted by a director, chaperone, or selected student leader. Every effort will be made to accommodate needs without jeopardizing the integrity of the section. Restroom breaks will not be granted in the second quarter of a football game.
- Students will be expected to listen for and watch the directors and drum majors during the game. Students will need to be prepared to perform at all times and at a moment's notice.
- Students will refrain from dancing in the stands on an individual basis. VDC will perform as a group or with approved stand dances. While playing, always pay attention to the director/drum major.
- At the appropriate time, VDC will be dismissed from the stands for the half-time performance. At this time, VDC must move quickly, quietly, and efficiently to the appropriate area. Students will need to be focused on the directors', Company Captain's, & Drum Majors' instructions.
- At the conclusion of the half-time performance, students will return to the stands and continue in the stand performance throughout the remainder of the game.
- During the 3rd quarter, we will participate in the good sportsmanship procedures of officer meetings and introductions. The band president will create a schedule of which student leaders participate in this event each week.
- At the conclusion of the game, students will load busses quickly and efficiently.
- Upon return to the band hall/dance gym, students will ensure that all personal items, uniforms and instruments are placed in the proper storage areas.
- At the conclusion of each engagement, there may be a brief meeting before dismissal.

Arrival at VHS:

- Students will also be responsible to see that their belongings are picked up and stored correctly upon the unloading of the buses.
- No one departs Dance Room until dance gym & locker room has been cleaned up & all supplies/equipment have been stored properly.
- Get YOUR belongings out of the way once it is unloaded and put it away.
- Return uniform (hung properly) to costume closet.
- Once we arrive at VHS the tape of that night's performance is shown in the band hall. You are not required to stay for the tape. This is optional!
- GO HOME! All of you are loved, but go home and get some rest!
- Company leaders help hang costumes at first game.

Uniform/Costume Guidelines

Donning the Uniform

- Always wear and treat your uniform with pride. The uniform should be worn as a complete unit at all times when in public. The only exception to this will be when a director instructs you otherwise. *Do not run while in uniform!*
- You must wear approved Vision Dance Wear. (student purchases).
- Jewelry, hair ribbons, and bright colored nail polish etc. are unacceptable while in uniform. Only the approved given costume jewelry will be worn. These items hinder the uniform appearance of the band.
- No consumption of food and drinks (other than H₂O) while in uniform without permission.

Uniform Costs

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

Financial Obligations

It is the philosophy of the Vandegrift High School Band & VDC that no student should be denied the privilege of membership due to financial hardship. For options in meeting financial obligations, parents should contact the director.

Fair Share Fee

All Vandegrift VDC & Band members will be responsible for this annual fee. The purpose of the assessment fee is to help with the various expenses that are necessary to run a quality band program, but are not covered by the school district. These include but are not limited to such items as clinicians, contest entry fees, printing specialty items, general supplies, marching band design coordination, charter bus rentals, social activities, and more as voted by the Band Boosters.

Meal Fee

This fee covers all pre-game meals, specified meals at camps and some contests during the Fall Marching Season.

Assessed Fees

Fees listed below are approximate and may vary from student to student. Each student will receive an estimated expense sheet with their applicable expenses.

Fundraising

The Vandegrift High School Band and Band Booster Club engage in fundraising activities throughout each year. The monies raised from fundraising activities will be credited to an account held by the Booster Club and is subject to all state laws. This money will be used only for the direct benefit of the band program.

Student Leadership

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

Student leaders are held to higher standards of performance and behavior than a general band student. They are expected to be positive role models for all band members at all times. Please see Conduct Expectation #1 pertaining to general conduct of students as well as student leadership positions.

VDC Student Leadership Positions

Company Captain(s)

The Company Captain(s) will be the field commander(s) and conductor(s) for the dancing ensemble. A Company Capt. will serve the marching season for which she is selected. In the event that an underclassman is selected as Company Capt., she must reenter the selection process the next school year. Company Captains will be selected through an audition process. Specific elements of the company captain audition process may vary from year to year at the discretion of the directors.

Company Leaders

Company leaders will be responsible for efficient operations of their companies. They will complete weekly inspections, maintain field discipline, provide instruction, serve as positive role models, and assist the company captains as needed. They will be selected through the first portion of the Company Captain audition process.

Band Boosters

The Vision Dance Company is an extension of the Viper Band Program, therefore, VDC parents are a part of the VHS Band Boosters. The Vandegrift Band Boosters exist to assist the band directors in reaching the band program goals. The boosters usually meet on the second Tuesday of every month. The meetings are open to the public and begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Vandegrift Band Hall. Support activities provided by the boosters include serving meals to students before games, providing chaperones for trips, providing chaperones for social events, financing of social events, providing parents to assist in various aspects of the marching band production, and numerous other activities. There is a place for every parent in this organization. Your service is not only encouraged, but also needed. For more information, please visit our website at www.vhsband.com and look for the various contact numbers.

Letter Jackets

A student must earn a grand total of 50 points to qualify for a letter jacket from the Vandegrift High School Vision Dance Company. Jackets will be ordered at the completion of the marching season. Points may be earned in the following manner:

15 Points (15 points/year of participation)

- One complete season of successful participation in Vision Dance Company.
(loss of eligibility will remove 5 points credit from this portion)

10 Points

- Holding one complete season in a Leadership Position within Vision Dance Company.
- One complete season of perfect attendance at after school rehearsals, performances & competitions.

5 Points

- Recognition points given by the Vision Dance Co. &/or Viper Band Director for dancer of the week and other special awards.



Please provide the following information and signatures and return to the Vandegrift VDC Director no later than December 1, 2011. (Failure to turn in on time will jeopardize audition eligibility)

Vision Dance Company Handbook Signature page

Please return this page to your director.

I have received, reviewed and understand the policies and guidelines in the Vandegrift High School Vision Dance Company Handbook. I further agree to abide by the procedures set forth.

Student Name _____
(print)

Student Signature _____

Grade _____

I have received and reviewed the 2012-2013 Vision Dance Company Handbook.

Parent Name _____
(print)

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

Printed Student Name _____
(Last, First)