

Section 1 – Introduction/Philosophy Statement

Welcome!

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Mrs. Siddle. I am originally from Belleville, IL and am a graduate of Eastern Illinois University. This will be an exciting year as I get to know all of you! I'm sure we'll be able to learn a great deal from each other as we learn about music.

The Purpose of any school program should be to prepare students for life after their school career has ended. Participation in Valmeyer Bands will provide students with the opportunity to perform and learn about music in many different styles. Music is an integral part of any education where respect for all cultures and the world around is of paramount importance. Participation in the Valmeyer Band Program will provide the student with the opportunity to learn about music through active participation.

Section 2 – Teacher

- 1) The teacher will provide a positive learning environment in which all students can learn. This will be achieved through thorough planning, specific attainable goals and daily enforcement of school and band discipline policies.
- 2) The teacher will provide a positive learning environment where all students can learn.
- 3) The teacher will be your teacher – not just your band director. Schools exist to prepare you for life after school. It is the job of your teacher not only to teach the subject matter required but also to enforce school and classroom rules and policies.

Section 3 – Student

- 1) Students will come to class prepared. Preparedness is defined as follows:
 - a. Students will come to class with all materials necessary to effectively participate in band. This includes but is not limited to your instrument, a pencil, all music and any other materials needed to participate in class. This includes instrument mutes, reeds, valve oil, etc. It is impossible to “make up” a rehearsal involving a full band if you are absent or unprepared.
 - b. Students will come to class ready to learn. Come to class with an appropriate mindset and attitude. You decide whether or not you will be successful.
 - c. Students will practice on their own time.

- 2) Students will follow school and classroom rules. The band room rules will be posted in the band room. School rules are published in the school handbooks and on the school website.
- 3) Students will remain a positive representative of Valmeyer and obey all school rules while participating in school trips and functions both on and off campus.

Section 4 – Classroom Rules and Consequences

The band room rules are as follows:

- Rule 1:** When the teacher is on the podium, Voices are silent and it is time to work. “Time to work” means your body is wherever it needs to be to allow you to effectively participate in band rehearsal.
- Rule 2:** Students are only allowed to touch their own instruments. Other students’ instruments and school instruments are off limits (including percussion).
- Rule 3:** No food, drink, gum, etc. (**water** bottles with **water** in them are an exception)
- Rule 4:** Students will follow all school handbook rules at all times. This applies both on and off school campus.

The band room consequences are as follows:

1st offense – Verbal warning

2nd offense - Behavior log and lose 1 personal responsibility point

3rd offense – discipline referral and lose 1 positive behavior point

Section5 – Grading Policy

Band is a class. Students do not receive grades, they earn them. The grade you earn will reflect your level of preparation before and during and after rehearsals. Your grade in band will be a composite of points earned during rehearsals, playing tests and performances.

Daily rehearsal points	35%
Playing Tests/Assignments	35%
Performances	30%

Every rehearsal will be worth 10 points:

2 pts. – Instrument

2 pts. – Music

2 pts. – Supplies (reeds, oils, neck straps, sticks, etc.)

1 pt. – Pencil

1 pt. – positive behavior

1 pt. – Personal Responsibility

1 pt. – meaningful participation

Playing tests will be rubric-based. These rubrics will be discussed in rehearsal and made available to students prior to the playing test. Students will take playing tests during normal rehearsal times.

Section 6 – Attendance Policy

Performances

All students are required to attend all scheduled band performances. Performances are part of your band grade and your absence will affect the band performance. Work and extracurricular activities are not adequate excuses for missing performances. You must provide notice to the teacher of a known absence from a performance as soon as you learn of the conflict. Performances can not be made-up.

Tardy

A student has three minutes to enter the classroom and get their supplies together. The teacher will take attendance at 5 minutes into class. If you are not in your assigned seat when attendance is being taken, you are tardy.

Section 7 – Classroom Procedures

Please enter the classroom with a purpose! There is enough time to come in, grab your musical supplies and go to your assigned seat. Attendance will be taken 5 minutes into class to give time for rehearsal prep. Rehearsal goals will be listed on the board. Please take note of our goals and prepare to achieve them.

When the teacher is on the podium, rehearsal has started and it is time to work. Students not in their assigned seats ready to work will be marked tardy. Talking, playing, or any other behavior that will distract from the rehearsal will stop for the remainder of the rehearsal.

The band room will be kept in order. Instruments will be kept properly in their cases (where applicable) and stored in designated areas. Instruments will be handled appropriately. Instruments improperly stored will be noted and their respective owners will lose 1 personal responsibility point for that rehearsal.

Students will keep all music in their assigned music folders (music stored in instrument cases is prohibited) and folders will be kept in designated areas. Music that is improperly stored will be noted and its owner will lose 1 personal responsibility point for that rehearsal.

Supplemental materials for rehearsals and playing exams will be kept on top of the music folder cabinet.

Students that need repairs done to their instrument will notify the teacher before rehearsal starts or as soon as the problem occurs.

The equipment in the band room is very hard to replace. School band instruments and equipment are school property. Students using school band instruments and equipment will be responsible for any damage not attributable to normal wear and tear. Persons found to be incorrectly handling or abusing school property will be dealt with as per the school handbook.

Section 8 – Student/Parent Commitment Form

Please read this handbook thoroughly and retain for your records. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or email me. Sign and return this form to acknowledge that you have read, understand and agree to follow the rules and policies in this handbook.

Your first assignment is returning this form. This form is worth 50 points.

It is due Thursday, August 29. You will lose 1 preparation point each rehearsal it is late. This form is very important! Get this signed and back to me. I'm looking forward to a great year!

Jackie Siddle

Band Director

618-935-2100 x232

jsiddle@valmeyerk12.org

Detach and return the bottom portion to Mrs. Siddle by Thursday, August 29.

2013-2014 Valmeyer Band Student/Parent Commitment Form

I have read, understand and agree to follow the rules and policies contained in the 2013-2014 Valmeyer Band Handbook.

Student Name (print)

Parent/Guardian Name (print)

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Please return to Mrs. Siddle by Thursday, August 29

2013-2014

Valmeyer Band Handbook

Jackie Siddle, Director

