

2018 VHS Marchin' Cats Auxiliary Audition Packet

Dear Students,

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of the **VHS Marching Band Color Guard or Dance Line**. Being an auxiliary member of the marching band is a very worthwhile experience. However, it is very important for you to understand that to be successful in the performing arts program will require hard work, lots of time, commitment, and a good attitude.

Attached to this sheet you will find a try-out permission form, rehearsal guidelines, and teacher evaluation forms. All forms must be signed and turned into Mrs. Carson-Cook prior to the actual day of the audition. Perspective candidates will not be allowed to participate if the forms are not received before the rehearsals date.

Thank you again for your interest in the VHS Marching Band Colorguard or Dance line.

Sincerely,

Karen A. Carson-Cook

Karen A. Carson-Cook, Fine Arts Department Head

VHS Color Guard/Dance Line Coordinator

3101 N. Forrest Street

Valdosta, Georgia 31602

229-333-8540 ext. 4118

kcook@gocats.org

VHS COLOR GUARD/DANCE LINE REQUIREMENTS - RULES

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Your child has selected to audition to become a member of Valdosta High School Marching Band's Color Guard/Dance Auxiliaries. Before signing any forms/contracts, please **carefully** read the following information with your child regarding VHS Band Color Guard/Dance Line Auxiliaries.

A Valdosta High School Band Auxiliary Member is to be a true representative of the school and must always set the highest standards of character and conduct. Everything a member does reflect on the entire program, and for that reason a team member must always act in a courteous and respectful manner, conscious of the fact that he/she is constantly on display. All members of the band must obey the rules written in the Valdosta High School's handbook and the Code of Conduct booklet. These rules and regulations apply for all band activities at all times. An Auxiliary Member must assume his/her many responsibilities with enthusiasm. As part of the Valdosta High School Band Program an Auxiliary Member's pride and spirit is endless. The auxiliary, as a whole, is more important than an individual's personal desires.

All performing arts experiences are wonderful, but these types of experiences require **commitment, dedication, and responsibility** from both the child and the parent(s). These programs also require each member of the group to work hard for a minimum of ten months per year, including early morning practices, after-school practices, summer practices, summer camps, weekend practices, performances, competitions, games, community relations and community appearances, etc. These experiences also require the financial commitment of the child's parent. Every effort (Fundraising Activities and Sponsorship) to help defer the cost for the child's personal accessories, attire, band camp, travel, lodging, food, equipment, etc. will be available throughout the school year. Participating in these fundraising activities is not a choice, it is mandatory. All money raised in these activities is raised on behalf of Valdosta High School. Your child will receive credit towards all payments for all money he/she has raised. However, **all expenses** are the direct responsibility of the child and the child's parents. The child's **basic** auxiliary uniform and equipment (flag/props) are provided by the band program.

Any student selected as a member on the Colorguard or Dance Line must also be enrolled in the Dance class. If your child did not elect to be placed in the class, please contact your child's guidance counselor following the posting of the new list of Colorguard and Dance Line members.

It is our desire that you and your child have an exciting and rewarding experience if he/she is selected to participate with the Valdosta High School's Marching Band Program.

Sincerely,

Karen A. Carson-Cook

Karen A. Carson-Cook, Fine Arts Department Head
VHS Marching Band Auxiliary Coordinator

Note: Being a member of the VHS Color Guard and/or Dance Line is a privilege and not a requirement for graduation. **Discipline and Respect** are two of the most important character traits you must possess to be a positive and productive member of any organization. Any member who chooses to disrespect any faculty, staff, auxiliary leader, another student, or parent will be removed from the auxiliary. Any member who chooses to disobey any rules or regulations of the school or band (including the color guard/dance line) will be removed from the auxiliary.

REQUIREMENTS

- The member's first responsibility is to his/her academic program. The educational process should not be compromised by participation with the program.
- An Auxiliary member has the responsibility to uphold, to reflect, and to project the goals and ideas of the band's and the school's community.
- Members are responsible for learning any material he/she misses due to an excused absence.
- **Financial Responsibility:** Members are responsible for payment of all merchandise, equipment, accessories, etc. for their participation on the color guard/dance line. This includes all tights but not limited to: body tights, warm-ups, dance shoes, and dance bag. The cost for these items will vary each year.
- Absolutely **No Food, Gum Chewing, and No Jewelry** will be allowed during any band activity.
- Health and Physical Abilities: Color Guard/Dance Line members must maintain their physical health and endure a **great amount of cardiovascular exercise** to safely perform with the highest energy.
- Appearance will also play a part in the selection of the Color Guard/dance Line members.

RULES

1. **After school activities:** The following rules apply during after school practices, games, etc. Students not in the appropriate dress code or uniform will be asked to change to the appropriate attire. Refusal to change will result in dismissal from the activity.
 - All practices, performance, and appearances are **mandatory**. Members must be present for all activities undertaken by the band.
 - If a student has an emergency and will miss a practice or performance, then a parent must contact the Director by phone.
 - If a member misses a rehearsal the Director and/or Coordinator retains the discretion to replace/remove the member for an upcoming game, appearance, or competition.
2. **Dress code: Dress code for Dance Classes and after school Practices:** Regular dance wear should be worn for any performing arts class. Example: Leotard, Unitards, and Dance pants. Dance footwear such as Dance Sneakers, Jazz Shoes. T-shirts, shorts, or warm-up pants will be acceptable if you do not have the proper dance wear for classes and after school practices. Dance footwear such as Jazz Oxfords. Footwear is mandatory for safety reasons. Class/Practice T-shirts may not have inappropriate language or pictures or V-necks. For health and safety precautions **No sandals, street shoes, or tennis shoes that do not cover the entire feet are not allowed for class or band rehearsals.**
3. **Performance Dress Code:** will be the band's color guard/dance line uniform and some other uniform may be designated due to weather. (If you are unsure about the uniform for performances, appearances then immediately contact your auxiliary/section leader). You will not appear with the band out of uniform. The uniforms are the property of the VHS Band Program. You are not

permitted to wear any part of the uniform without permission from the auxiliary coordinator and or director.

- Each student is responsible for his or her own uniform, equipment, and accessories.
- Absolutely **NO JEWELRY** unless it is a part of the uniform.
- If a student's uniform, equipment, or accessory is lost or damaged, that student is responsible for replacing the item.
- Proper underwear must be worn at all times. (Body tights, sports bras, etc.)
- **Hairstyles!!: Hair coloring must not be un-natural (No red, blue, purple, orange or unnatural color etc.)**, unless it is part of the current design designated by the Auxiliary Coordinator. **All Color Guard/Dance Line members are required to wear your hair pulled back off your face in a ponytail and above the ears, with the designated hair accessories. Failure to follow this rule will cause the member to not appear with the band.** In the event that your hair is too short then see your section Director/Advisor for an alternative hairstyle. Note: If you choose to have your hair braided and do not meet the criteria for hairstyles listed above then you will **not be able to appear with the band.** You will be considered **OUT OF UNIFORM** if these rules are not followed. Auxiliary members will be benched for not following band rules.
- **ALL UNIFORMS AND ACCESSORIES MUST BE KEPT NEAT AND CLEAN AT ALL TIMES!**

The consequences are as follows: Students will be verbally warned. If unacceptable behavior continues the student will be asked to leave the activity. **If any student is placed in ISS or given OSS the student will be suspended from all band activities.**

~~~~~

**ESTIMATED ACCESSORIES/ITEM COST FOR THE COLOR GUARD/DANCE LINE AUXILIARY**

**All payments must be made to: VHS Band Boosters – Please place your participation money in the black box located in the band room.**

**\*\*The information listed below is *an estimation* of cost based on the current school year expenses. Additional expenses and or accessories will apply. Students are encouraged to participate in all fundraiser held by the VHS Band Program.**

|                                                                                    |                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. TEAM DANCE SHOES (Required)                                                     | \$ 45.00               |
| 2. VHS Band Fees ( <i>must be paid in full to participate in band activities</i> ) | <u>\$160.00</u>        |
| <b>Total Auxiliary <u>estimated</u> cost</b>                                       | <b><u>\$205.00</u></b> |

**A payment plan will be set up by the VHS Band Booster's.**

**THE ABOVE ITEMS WILL BE ORDERED BY JUNE 1st – PLEASE MAKE ALL *CHECKS* PAYABLE TO VHS BAND BOOSTERS. YOU MUST PLACE ALL PAYMENTS IN THE BLACK DEPOSIT BOX LOCATED IN THE BACK OF THE BAND ROOM.**

**VHS AUXILIARY AUDITION REHEARSAL GUIDELINES**  
**Monday March 19<sup>th</sup> – Friday March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

1. The **actual audition** will be held **Friday, March 23, 2018** beginning promptly at pm. Students will arrive at the band room by 3:30PM. (**We understand** that VECA and the Middle Schools will arrive later than 3:30PM)
  - **MANDATORY Rehearsals** to learn tryout routines will begin **Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup>** through **Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 3:30pm until 6:00pm** in the VHS band room. **Actual audition date is Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Please contact Mrs. Cook if you have any questions – [kcook@gocats.org](mailto:kcook@gocats.org)
2. All participants must wear practice clothes including athletic shoes. Shorts must be of appropriate length. White tops and sleeveless shirts may be worn but **no spaghetti straps and no cleavage may be shown**. No jewelry may be worn and nails must be at a manageable length. Anyone not adhering to the dress code will lose points.
3. Always be on time. To be early is to be on time. To be on time is to be late. Tardiness will be taken into consideration during the audition process.
4. *If you owe the school system or the band program any money, you will **not** be eligible to audition for the dance line or colorguard.*
5. You must have good recommendations from all teachers/directors to be eligible to audition. All returning members must have one of the recommendations come from the auxiliary director and or the colorguard instructor. Any serious disciplinary reports or problems during the rehearsals will prohibit you from auditioning.

**You will need to wear the following attire for the actual audition:**

- **White T-shirt and black shorts or dance pants!**
- **White socks and athletic shoes or Dance Shoes or Guard Shoes!**
- **No jewelry may be worn!**

**ALL REHEARSALS AND ACTUAL AUDITIONS ARE CLOSED!**  
**UNLESS YOU ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO**  
**ENTER INTO THE PRACTICE/AUDITION AREAS**

Selection for the 2018 Marching Cats Colorguard and Dance Line will be announced following review of application and recommendations.

*Return this form with application*

**2018 VHS Colorguard and/or Dance Line Application**

Please Check One:      Colorguard \_\_\_\_\_      Dance Line \_\_\_\_\_

Print Student's (Full Legal) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list all past Band Experiences: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

List any Marching Experience, Colorguard or Dance Training:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Current School \_\_\_\_\_ GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Person's Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email \_\_\_\_\_

Student Cell \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Cell \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

*My child has permission to audition for the VHS Band Color Guard/Dance Line. My child and I have read and understand the rules and regulations for participating in the VHS Band Program. I understand that I will not have access to the judge's scores, clinic evaluation, or teacher recommendations and that the judges' decisions are final.*

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

***Return this form with application***

**AUXILIARY PARENTAL REHEARSAL/PRACTICE AND AUDITION PERMISSION FORM**

My signature on this form grants that my child has my permission to rehearse/practice and audition for a position on the Valdosta High School Marching Band's Auxiliary – (Colorguard and Dance Line). It also indicates that I understand and will adhere to the policies as stated below.

1. All students will audition before a panel of judges consisting of: outside judges, the auxiliary coordinator, and the band director, in any combination.
2. The band director will have the final and ultimate decision in the selection process. The decision of the band director is final.
3. Returning members are expected to audition. (There are no guarantees that returning members will be selected for the new team(s).
4. All students auditioning are expected to accept positions as they are assigned by the auxiliary coordinator and the band director.
5. All students auditioning are expected to attend all rehearsals and to be on time. Failure to attend rehearsals on time may result in a student being ineligible to participate in the audition.
6. The uniform will change. Students who drop out or become ineligible after the uniforms have been ordered will still be required to pay any remaining or outstanding balance.
7. All auditions are closed to parents and spectators.

**Remember that this form must be returned** before a student will be allowed to Participate in the rehearsals and the actual audition.

**PARENT'S SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENT'S SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

Return one of these evaluation forms from each of your teachers.

VHS COLOR GUARD AND DANCE LINE TEACHER EVALUATION FORM

STUDENT'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

TEACHER'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

|               | Worst |   |   | Best |   |
|---------------|-------|---|---|------|---|
| ATTITUDE      | 1     | 2 | 3 | 4    | 5 |
| COOPERATION   | 1     | 2 | 3 | 4    | 5 |
| CHARACTER     | 1     | 2 | 3 | 4    | 5 |
| PUNCTUALITY   | 1     | 2 | 3 | 4    | 5 |
| DEPENDABILITY | 1     | 2 | 3 | 4    | 5 |

ADDITIONAL  
COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

**Teachers:**

**Please DO NOT return this form to the student.** We need your true performance evaluation. Valdosta High School Teachers, return all forms to VHS - Mrs. Karen Carson-Cook. Middle school teachers and VECA teacher must also send all completed forms to Mrs. Karen Carson-Cook @ VHS. All forms must be **turned no later than Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018**. Thank you very much for your time and effort. With your continued support, I feel very confident that we will have a successful school year.

Sincerely,

*Karen A. Carson-Cook*, VHS Fine Arts Department Head  
VHS Marching Band Auxiliary Coordinator