

## THE MARCHING VIRGINIANS HANDBOOK 2023-2024

### RULES AND POLICIES

#### Rules of Conduct

- When in uniform, traveling, rehearsing, or performing with The Marching Virginians, you are representing this organization and the University. Conduct yourself in a manner which will represent the ensemble and yourself to the highest standard.
- Handle band equipment with care. Abuse of equipment will result in a monetary fine or grade penalty.
- Show respect and demonstrate sportsmanlike conduct to guests, visiting teams, and bands.
- Carry out instructions from the Directors, Drum Majors, Officers, Section Leaders, and Rank Captains without disrespectful responses.
- Do not play out of turn or individually during rehearsals, performances or while in the stands.
- Treat fellow band members with respect and friendship.
- As leaders in the Virginia Tech community, The Marching Virginians abide by the Student Code of Conduct as defined in the [Hokie Handbook](#). This includes areas such as the use of alcohol and controlled substances, hazing, and sexual harassment and assault.

#### Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism Policy

The Marching Virginians is committed to anti-racism alongside the ideals of equity, diversity, and inclusion. We promote inclusivity in the broadest possible terms, encompassing the equitable and fair treatment of all members of our community. We promote a learning environment and curriculum fully representative of diversity, not only with respect to traditional markers such as race, ethnicity, social class, sexuality, religion, gender, and ability, but also diversity of thought experience, and outlook upon the world. We strive to respond to the varied needs and aspirations of our evolving community, which requires the contribution of all members to enrich the classroom and overall college experience for all. Please see Virginia Tech's Anti-Racism Statement [here](#).

## **Sexual Misconduct Policy**

United States Federal law and the Virginia Tech policy prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex and gender, which includes sexual misconduct, such as harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. We recognize that sexual violence may undermine academic success, and we encourage anyone dealing with sexual misconduct to talk to someone about their experience they can get the support they need. Confidential support can be found at the [Virginia Tech Women's Center](#) and the [Cook Counseling Center](#). Non-confidential reports can be made to the [Virginia Tech Police Department](#) and the [Title IX Office](#) on campus. Further information about sexual misconduct can be found [here](#).

## **Accessibility**

Every student has a right to full access to learning. If you need an accommodation for a disability affecting your academic growth, please let your instructor know. You should also contact [Virginia Tech's Services for Students with Disabilities](#) to receive an accommodation plan. The purpose of any accommodation is to provide all students with an equitable and fair opportunity to learn, grow, and demonstrate mastery of course content. You can also contact the Associate Dean of your college for assistance in accessing learning accommodations.

## **Student Mental Health and Wellbeing**

The Marching Virginians is committed to advancing the mental health and wellbeing of its students while acknowledging that many issues, such as physical injuries, strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, and depression, directly impact students' academic performance. Virginia Tech provides services such as counseling, treatment for physical injuries, workshops, and wellness support.

If you or a peer is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of mental health support, please reach out to any of the following for assistance:

Cook Counseling Center

<https://ucc.vt.edu>

Schiffert Health Center

<https://healthcenter.vt.edu>

540-231-6444

For additional mental health resources, please visit:

<https://vt.edu/campus-life/health-wellness.html>

To get help right away, or if you or someone you know is in crisis, please visit:

[https://ucc.vt.edu/clinical\\_services\\_students/emergency\\_services.html](https://ucc.vt.edu/clinical_services_students/emergency_services.html)

## POLICIES

### Attendance Policy

#### *Class Conflicts*

Our capacity to perform to the best of our ability depends on your attendance at rehearsals and performances. If you have a class conflict, band can be force-added into your schedule provided you meet the following criteria:

1. The class must ONLY be offered during the marching band class time. If the class is offered at a different time during the day that you have available, that is the section you should register for.
2. If you miss two or more rehearsals per week you are unable to be in The Marching Virginians. Exceptions may be made with the Directors' approval.
3. Depending on the rehearsal time you are missing you may be asked to sit out one-week shows to facilitate the quick pace of rehearsals.

Your class schedule should be uploaded as a PDF document and submitted to your rank captain. If that class schedule changes, you should communicate with your rank captain and the Directors. Any class conflicts will be approved by the Directors.

#### *Absences*

The Directors realize that an occasional rehearsal may be missed for reasons such as sickness, death in the family, academic difficulty, religious holiday, etc. Band members have five absences which they may use at their discretion for rehearsals; the first five absences used are automatically those five rehearsals.

The sixth absence lowers your band grade by half a letter. Additional absences will lower your grade by half a letter. A missed performance will lower your grade two letters. **Each incident will be evaluated by the directors.**

If you will be absent for two or more days in a row, or need to be replaced in a show, please email the directors AND your rank captain.

If you are not assigned to march a show, you are still required to come to those rehearsals in preparation of that performance. You will participate in those rehearsals in the following capacity:

- Learning and participating in all music rehearsals
- “Shadowing” a spot on the field so you are qualified to fill the spot of a last-minute absence on game day
- Serving as a spotter in the tower—this person will communicate with the rank captains regarding big picture drill concerns

Absences on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning prior to a performance are not permitted and need special permission from the Director.

All performances are required unless excused by a director.

If you are tardy to a game day rehearsal, you are required to check in with the Director.

Depending on how much of the rehearsal you have missed, you may not be eligible to march the show. **If you are going to be late to a game day rehearsal, communicate with your rank captain immediately.**

Be professional about this commitment—communicate what is going on in your schedule and if you need help or special consideration, please ask. When in doubt, communicate your needs so we can work together to make this a great experience for everyone.

### **Dress and Performance Policies**

- Do not smoke, vape, or drink while in uniform.
- Keep your uniform and shoes clean. *You will be inspected before each performance.* If you have an unkempt uniform, you will not march!
- Limit your amount of jewelry and accessories while in uniform.
- Wear the full uniform at all times with no parts missing or improperly displayed. This includes walking to and from games.
- Wear your hat so that there is room for only two fingers between the hat brim and your nose.
- Do not wear sunglasses during field performances unless they are medically necessary.
- Wear the Marching Virginians provided sunglasses unless you require prescription sunglasses.
- Hair should be worn up and under the hat; off of the uniform. In the stands, hair should be worn up off the shoulders.

## **EQUIPMENT**

### **Instrument Use and Checkout**

The band provides all instruments on loan. You may obtain an instrument from the Instrument Supply Officer, but you should be prepared with your own mouthpiece. The Director will assess fees for damage and delinquent equipment return at the end of the season.

### **Uniforms**

You are responsible for the care of your uniform while it is in your possession. You are required to return the uniform at the request of the Director. Failure to do so will result in billing by the Tailor Shop and the withholding of your grades and/or transcripts.

### **Tips on Uniform Care**

- Clean your hat, hat ornament, and spats with a damp cloth.
- Make sure to hang up your uniform between performances.
- Never let your plume get wet. Shake your plume out before returning it to the managers.
- Wash your neck liner and gloves regularly (you will receive your first pair of gloves from the Tailor Shop. If you would like additional pairs of gloves, they can be purchased by Kappa Kappa Psi throughout the season).

## **WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA**

- MV Website: <http://www.spiritoftech.com>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MarchingVirginians>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SpiritOfTech>
- Instagram: <https://instagram.com/spiritoftech/>

## **STUDENT STAFF**

All members of the student staff are required to attend a weekly meeting with members of field leadership to discuss the following week's show and aid in decision-making for the band.

### **Executive Officer – Lauren Chuderewicz**

The Executive Officer is elected by a majority of voting band members during the spring semester. While Drum Majors are responsible for the band on the field, the Executive Officer is responsible for the band off the field. Seven primary responsibilities must be addressed:

- Appoint officers for his/her executive term
- Assist with Band Camp registration
- Coordinate the responsibilities of all officers
- Preside over all officers' meetings
- Serve as a liaison between the Director and the band
- Serve as the official representative of The Marching Virginians
- Serve as a non-voting member of The Marching Virginians Alumni Association

### **Services Officer – Jillian Sasso**

The Services Officer is essential for the daily operation of the band. The Services Officer is required to:

- Assist with Band Camp registration
- Duplicate and/or collate drill charts, mailings, etc. as needed
- Manage and execute service events, MV for a Day, Hokies for the Hungry

### **Librarians – JC Hartman and Julia Inman-Ryan**

The Librarian is in charge of the distribution and handling of all music. The librarian is required to:

- Duplicate and distribute a limited number of wind music
- Maintain and update the electronic music library inventory
- Supply replacement music as necessary
- Assist Instrument Supply Officers in distributing lyres and flip folders to all winds

### **Treasurer – Abbie Robertson**

The Treasurer is responsible for student funds. The Treasurer is required to:

- Collect fees during Band Camp registration
- Coordinate the contract for Bandquet and collect Bandquet payments
- Maintain accurate records of receipts and expenditures
- Manage deposits and withdrawals in a timely manner
- Serve as bookkeeper for all special projects

### **Instrument Supply Officers – Ansel Huffman and Maggie Kirk**

The Instrument Supply Officers are responsible for the distribution and inventory of university-owned equipment. The Instrument Supply Officers are required to:

- Coordinate the distribution and return of university-owned instruments
- Maintain and update the inventory records of all instruments
- Maintain records of instrument issue/return
- Repair equipment as approved by the Director or transport to repair shop
- Assist in the initial inventory and marking of all new instruments
- Supervise the use of storage facilities by band members
- Coordinate instrument distribution for Alumni Band Day

### **Personnel Officer – Gracie Maslyn**

The Personnel Officer is responsible for the organization and maintenance of student records. The Personnel Officer is required to:

- Assist with Band Camp registration
- Create email and list serve
- Coordinate attendance with the Assistant Director
- Provide the Director with attendance data for grading purposes
- Update and maintain the University Bands data-based personnel system

### **Online Content Officers – Breanna Goode and Emily Saintsing**

The Online Content Officer is responsible for the band's presence on social media. This person works closely with the webmaster. The Online Content Officer is required to:

- Acquire the video of each show and add basic formatting
- Add performance videos to the MV YouTube channel
- Regularly update and provide content on MV social media sites
- Represent the public image of The Marching Virginians

## **Operations Officers – Sydney Deitrich, Sarah-Faith Mukuna, and Maxwell Kates-Tate**

The Operations Officers are responsible for the transportation and set-up of equipment prior to all rehearsals and performances. The Operations Officers are required to:

- Assist in the maintenance of the MVC
- Coordinate activities with the Head Manager
- Maintain and coordinate field equipment, including the public address system, podiums, yard markers, etc.
- Manage uniform distribution with the help of the Tailor Shop
- Organize and supervise the packing of luggage and equipment on buses
- Provide timely transportation of university-owned instruments and equipment
- Supervise and assist in loading/unloading of equipment in/out of storage
- Maintain office supplies in MVC

## **Marketing and Communications Officers – Emelia Delaporte, and Paige Barnhart**

The Public Relations Officer are responsible for publicity tasks. The Public Relations Officers are required to:

- Assist with editing scripts for all field performances
- Coordinate distribution of University Bands publicity materials
- Coordinate publicity related to special events and activities
- Issue press releases as necessary
- Produce and distribute weekly media guides
- Produce graphic design for items such as press books, flyers, and other items
- Serve as band historian by maintaining records and memorabilia of yearly activities
- Work closely with Online Content Officer

## **Senior Staff Assistants – Peyton Gentry, Matthew Homoroc, Jay Smith, Morgan Thompson, and Atlas Vernier**

Senior staff members are senior-level student musicians who are interested in building their skill set in music instruction and administration. Participation in senior staff gives students an excellent hands-on experience with musical and administrative tasks.

## **FIELD LEADERSHIP**

### **Drum Majors – Thomas Chase and Calvin Moore**

The Drum Majors audition in the Spring and are selected by the student staff and a panel of faculty advisors. They are responsible for the execution of rehearsals and performances. It is their responsibility to assist with discipline and order on the field. They must have a thorough understanding of the music and drill for each show and be able to assist those who need help. The Drum Majors serve as a liaison between the Director, Rank Captains, and Section Leaders. They also serve as officers on the Executive Staff.

### **Managers – Head Manager: Sarah-Faith Mukuna**

Band Managers attend rehearsals throughout the season to ensure that all equipment used by The Marching Virginians is where it needs to be, when it needs to be there. These tasks are vital and contribute to the overall success of the program.

The Head Manager is responsible for the following:

- Work closely with the Operations and Instrument Supply Officers
- Manage the game day and rehearsal tasks
- Organize the Managers
- Help organize the band for travel

### **Feature Twirlers**

Feature twirlers are selected each year through an audition process. The primary criteria for selection is advanced performance ability. Audition information is announced each spring for the coming season.

### **Section Leaders**

Section leaders are chosen on the basis of proven leadership and excellence in musical performance. They are the primary leader with each section, maintaining an active dialogue with the rank captains. Section leaders assume responsibility for the musical performance of the section, specifically dealing with concerns such as section posture, breathing, quality sound production, and tuning. Section leaders are also responsible for the following:

- Attend weekly meetings to discuss new shows
- Coordinate and execute sectionals during rehearsals
- Identify section performance issues to address during sectionals

## **Rank Captains**

Rank Captains serve as liaison between the Director, drum majors, and band members. They should study and be familiar with the drill in advance of learning it in rehearsal. In addition to their responsibilities as the primary marching instructors, each rank captain will:

- Attend weekly meetings to discuss new shows
- Inspect uniforms prior to each performance
- Maintain discipline and order within his/her rank
- Help maintain attendance records and work with the personnel officer

## **KAPPA KAPPA PSI & TAU BETA SIGMA**

Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma, the National Honorary Band Fraternity and Sorority, provide countless service and social activities that promote the existence and welfare of the University Bands program.

### **Kappa Kappa Psi**

Kappa Kappa Psi operates as a student service and leadership organization that assists the band ensembles at VT in developing leadership and enthusiasm within the band. Kappa Kappa Psi's goals are to provide the band with service activities and offer members experience in organization, leadership, and social contacts.

The Eta Beta Chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi at Virginia Tech was chartered in the spring of 1976 and has assumed several responsibilities and activities in view of its national goal. Such activities include stage setups for performing groups, upkeep of the rehearsal field, and publicity for band functions. Eta Beta continually seeks outstanding band members to join their fraternity.

### **Tau Beta Sigma**

Tau Beta Sigma operates as a student service and leadership organization that assists the band ensemble at VT in developing leadership and enthusiasm within the band. Tau Beta Sigma's goals are to serve as a direct link between the Music Department and the students. They honor outstanding members of the band, develop leadership, and promote achievement through performance and service projects.

The Zeta Omicron Chapter of Tau Beta Sigma at Virginia Tech was chartered in the spring of 1979 and assists the bands with various service projects. Zeta Omicron continually seeks outstanding band members to join their sorority.

Both groups hope you have a memorable experience as a member of The Marching Virginians!

## **BAND AWARDS**

The following awards are presented at The Marching Virginian's Bandquet in January to recognize exemplary band members.

### **Outstanding Rank Members**

Rank captions select a member of their rank to receive the Outstanding Rank Members Award. The recipients are members who have demonstrated cooperation, outstanding musical performance, and leadership within their rank.

### **Outstanding Spirit Award**

The full band votes for the band member who has demonstrated the most enthusiastic and beneficial attitude toward The Marching Virginians and Virginia Tech throughout the season.

### **Outstanding Service Award**

The full band votes for the band member who has served The Marching Virginians selflessly throughout the season.

### **Outstanding Band Member**

The full band votes for the band member who has demonstrated the qualities of an outstanding Marching Virginian: spirit, enthusiasm, musical and marching excellence, service, and dedication.

### **Outstanding First-year Student**

The full band votes for the freshman who has best demonstrated all the qualities of an outstanding Marching Virginian: spirit, enthusiasm, musical and marching excellence, service, and dedication.

### **Four-Year Mugs**

Four-year mugs are presented to those who have completed four seasons with The Marching Virginians.

### **The Directors' Cup**

Initiated in 1981, the Directors' Cup honors student-musicians who make significant contributions to University Bands. There are three main criteria for the award:

- Embodiments dedication, professionalism and musicianship
- Participation in Marching Band for four consecutive seasons
- Participation in Symphony Band and/or Wind Ensemble for four consecutive seasons

Recipients receive an engraved sterling Jefferson Cup and are honored at the spring concert.

### **The James R. Sochinski *Spirit of Tech* Award**

The James R. Sochinski *Spirit of Tech* Award is a financial award given to a band member who has demonstrated outstanding citizenship and dedication during their career as a The Marching Virginians. Candidates for this award must have participated in The Marching Virginians for at least four seasons and are required to complete an application process. The Director and Assistant Director of The Marching Virginians review the applications and submit finalists to The Marching Virginians Alumni Association Board of Directors.

### **The David M. McKee *Spirit of Tech* Award**

The David M. McKee *Spirit of Tech* Award is a financial award given to first- or second-year band member. This band member demonstrates outstanding citizenship and dedication during their first or second year as a Marching Virginian and show great promise for future leadership within the ensemble. Candidates for this award must have participated in The Marching Virginians for at least one year and are required to complete an application process. The Director and Assistant Director of The Marching Virginians will review the applications and select an award recipient.

## **VIRGINIA TECH SONGS & CHEERS**

### **TECH TRIUMPH**

*Composed by Wilfred P. Maddux & Mattie Eppes*

Techmen, we're Techmen, with spirits true and faithful  
Backing up our teams with hope undying;  
Techmen, Oh Techmen, we're out to win today,  
Showing pep and life with which we're trying.  
VP, old VP, you know our hearts are with you  
In our luck that never seems to die;  
Win or lose, we'll greet you with a glad returning - you're the pride of VPI!

*Chorus:*

Just watch our men so big and active, Support the orange and maroon,  
LET'S GO TECH!  
We know our ends and backs are stronger,  
With winning hopes we fear defeat no longer  
To see our team plow through the line, boys  
Determined now to win or die  
So give a Hokie, Hokie, Hokie, Hi!  
Rae Rah, Old V-P-I!

### **VPI VICTORY MARCH (REVISED 2000)**

*Composed by C.D. Steinweddel*

You've seen Mountaineers fumble,  
You've been in the Hurricanes' eye;  
And you know ol' Syracuse  
Has learned the force of Hokie-Hi.  
Worthy teams for all around,  
Like Hoos from UVA,  
Know a winning team awaits them;  
Victory is ours today.

*Break strain:*

GO TECH!  
GO TECH!  
H-O-K-I-E-S, HOKIES!

## **VIRGINIA TECH ALMA MATER**

*Composed by E.T. Sparks & L.G. Chase*

*Verse:*

Sing praise to Alma Mater dear,  
For VPI we'll ever cheer;  
Come lift your voices, swell the song,  
Our loyalties to her belong.

*Chorus:*

So stand and sing, all hail to thee,  
VT, all hail to thee.

*Verse:*

The Orange and Maroon you see,  
That's fighting on to victory;  
Our strife will not be long this day,  
For glory lies within this fray.

*Verse:*

All loyal sons and daughters, one,  
We raise our banner to the sun;  
Our motto brings a spirit true,  
That we may ever serve for you.