

VPA POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

Enrollment in Booker High School's Visual and Performing Arts Center is a privilege extended only to the most talented students. Once accepted into the program, the student assumes responsibility for his/her own success.

The training offered requires time, concentration, and cooperation. Rules and conventions have evolved, which if adhered to will allow students to attain professional standards of performance.

In order to remain a member of the VPA Program, every student must adhere to the following:

- Maintain an *overall* GPA of 2.0 *per quarter* in his/her VPA classes.
- Maintain a combined average of 2.0 in academic classes.
- Demonstrate continued development of artistic ability.
- Demonstrate appropriate behavior and involvement in the classroom, rehearsals, and productions/shows.

PROBATION

Probation is a tool which the VPA Program uses to indicate to a student that he/she is deficient in one or more significant areas. A student may be placed on probation any time during the grading period, however, the student will be given a minimum of nine weeks (one full grading period) to correct the terms of his/her probation.

A student may be removed for continual problems in the following areas:

GRADES

- The student must maintain a 2.0 grade point average in all combined academic courses. In addition, the student must also maintain a 2.0 grade point average in all VPA courses.

ARTISTIC ABILITY

- The student must demonstrate continual progress in the development of his/her artistic ability each marking period.

COMMITMENT/ATTITUDE/BEHAVIOR

- The student must contribute to the classroom instruction in a POSITIVE manner.
- The student must fulfill his/her responsibilities to his/her respective VPA program area and adhere to all of the rules and policies set forth.
- The student must demonstrate serious interest and intent toward his/her professional growth.

PROBATION PROCEDURE

- A conference will be convened with the student placed on probation for the purpose of informing the student of the areas in which the student needs to show improvement.
- A written explanation will be sent home to be read and signed by a parent/guardian.
- If the student fulfills the terms of his/her probation requirements, the student will be removed from probation status. Notification will be provided.
- If the student does not fulfill the probation requirements, the student may continue on probation, or the student may be dismissed from the VPA Program. A conference will be convened with the parents, the student, and an administrator.
- A student may be dismissed from the VPA Program at the end of a semester or the end of the school year.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

There are certain circumstances in which a student may be placed on year-long probation, continual probation, or dismissed immediately from the VPA Program. These cases will be heard and decided upon by a faculty committee comprised of VPA staff and an administrator. The principal has the authority to dismiss a student from the VPA Program at any time.

Offenses resulting in this action could be:

- Refusing to audition, accept a role, dropping out of a production, refusal to perform a jury, not attending a concert(s), not attending a department produced art show, etc. (Refer to the expectations/requirements provided by your respective VPA program area instructors.)
- Being removed from a production for violation of the rules, policies, and guidelines.
- If a student has been placed on probation on more than one instance.
- Violation of the rules and policies as specified by the VPA Department or in the school handbook and Sarasota County Schools Rules of Conduct.

STANDARDS/GUIDELINES/EXPECTATIONS

CLASSROOM/STUDIO WORK

A. Classroom Conduct

- Punctuality is mandatory.
- Assignments are due on the day specified by the instructor and will NOT be accepted after that date unless otherwise specified by the instructor.
- Consideration and cooperation for the instructor and classmates is mandatory.
- Classrooms should be left in good order.
- Other than BOTTLED water, food and beverages are not permitted in the classroom.
NOTE: The stage and auditorium are considered classrooms.

B. Absences

- Our individualized in-class instruction in the performing arts is nearly impossible to make up due to the fact that so much of the learning takes place in a rehearsal setting and requires other class mates' participation or requires the school's equipment.

REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

A. Conflicts

- Any student wishing to participate in any activity, production, show, or performing ensemble that may conflict with other activities such as other productions, sports, jobs, vacations, etc. must follow the guidelines put forth by the instructor/advisor BEFORE auditioning or committing to any of the afore mentioned activities. The instructors/advisors do their best to allow for each student to participate in as many activities as possible, but sometimes a choice needs to be made when more than one activities' schedules cannot be accommodated.

B. Rehearsals

- Absolute punctuality is required of all persons scheduled to be at any rehearsal.
- In the event of an emergency severe enough to warrant missing a rehearsal, the director should be notified as soon as possible. DO NOT inform the director through another student.
- All those attending rehearsals are expected to devote their attention to the work at hand and to cooperate with the director/stage manager at all times.
- No one should leave the rehearsal site until released by the director/stage manager or permission is obtained from the director BEFORE the rehearsal begins.

- Instructors/Directors will post rehearsal/performance schedules in advance with a reasonable amount of notice. Students must adhere to the guidelines required of each respective activity/ensemble. These requirements will vary depending on the activity/ensemble. Refer to the SPECIFIC guidelines for the activity/ensemble provided by your respective VPA program instructors. Every effort will be made to adhere to the posted schedules, although changes are sometimes necessary and unavoidable. Any change will be posted at least twenty-four hours in advance.
- It is expected that all students appear at rehearsal with a positive attitude and are prepared for work. Personal problems should be left at the door before entering the rehearsal site.
- All personnel problems are to be referred to the director.
- All students involved in a production, show, or performance are to be present as scheduled. Extenuating circumstances may result in an excused absence by the director.
- An un-excused absence from rehearsal may result in dismissal from the production or performing ensemble, which would mean automatic probationary status in the VPA Program. If excused absences require the student to miss rehearsal time, he/she may be pulled from the production/performance for the production's/performance's benefit, without penalty.
- Students must adhere to the school and departmental attendance regulations in order to participate in that day's rehearsal or performance. (Pre-arranged excused absences are an exception.)

PROMOTION

To be promoted to the next level:

- At the beginning of each school year the student will be informed of the expectations for each class. These expectations must be fulfilled in order to be promoted to the next level.
- The student must maintain a 2.0 grade point average for academic classes, and a 2.0 grade point average for VPA classes without an "F".