

The Ocean Lakes High School Department of Fine Arts
Presents:

THE OCEAN LAKES HIGH SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK

FOR STUDENT and PARENTS



The Ocean Lakes High School Bands
Unity and Pride

2016-17 School Year

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FOREWORD

Welcome to the Ocean Lakes High School Band Program. The bands at Ocean Lakes High School have a long tradition of excellence, and we are pleased that you have joined the band program. This handbook is designed to help band members and parents understand the musical opportunities available in the Ocean Lakes High School Bands. If you have any questions regarding the band program or this handbook, please feel free to contact the Band Director by email or call the band room at (757) 648-4750 x57776.

We always welcome your questions.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. General Philosophy.....	3
Mission Statement.....	3
Objectives.....	3
II. Ocean Lakes High School Bands Course Descriptions	4-6
Marching Band.....	4
Color Guard	4
Concert Bands.....	4
Beginning Band.....	4-5
Symphonic Band.....	5
Wind Ensemble	5
Jazz Band	5
Extra-Curricular Ensembles.....	6
Percussion Ensemble	6
Indoor Color Guard/Drumline.....	6
III. Rules, Regulations, and Obligations	7-12
Finances	7
Band Fees.....	7
Rehearsal Technique	7-8
Attendance.....	8
Equipment.....	8-9
Instrument and Equipment Use.....	9
Instrument Repairs	9
Equipment Storage.....	9
Uniforms	9-10
Marching Uniforms	9-10
Color Guard Uniforms.....	10
Warm Up Suits.....	10
Concert Uniforms.....	10
Student Conduct.....	10-11
Conduct in Uniforms.....	11
Audition Regulations	10-11
Challenge System	11
Band Letters.....	11-12
IV. Grading Policy for Ensemble Classes	12-13
Expectations.....	12
Procedures.....	13
Extra Credit	13
V. Agreement Statement	14-15

I.GENERAL PHILOSOPHY

The primary purpose of the band program at Ocean Lakes High School is for the *musical* education of the students. Band is both a curricular and an extra-curricular discipline; it is a classroom program that requires additional, out of school participation. The Ocean Lakes High School Band Program welcomes all students of Ocean Lakes High School who display an interest in performance and exploring the art of music. **Membership in band requires determination, teamwork skills, and personal sacrifices. This includes time before/after school for rehearsal, practicing individually, and abiding to rules that are necessary for the great good and enjoyment of the entire band.**

Membership in a musical organization requires discipline. Rules are established so that the group may function efficiently not only for musical development, but also to create a sense of family, and ideally develop a support group amongst a large group setting. All members of the band program accept the rules of the organization upon entering the program.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Ocean Lakes High School Bands is to consistently strive for musical excellence that inspires both members and audiences. Members of the Ocean Lakes High School Bands operate within an environment of deeply engrained values: Motivation, Determination, and Musical Development. Along with these values, members develop the important life skills of time management, leadership, cooperation, humility, and responsibility. These values, when combined with quality music, lead to an exciting and rewarding band experience.

OBJECTIVES

1. Develop, in all students, a lifelong love and appreciation for music.
2. Support both Ocean Lakes High School activities and our community through musical performance and community service.
3. Project a positive image of the school and the Ocean Lakes High School Fine Arts Department.
4. Provide enjoyable and exciting experiences for students in all performing ensembles.

II. OCEAN LAKES HIGH SCHOOL BANDS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

The Ocean Lakes High School Band Program has become one of the most highly respected programs in Tidewater. This is due to the hard work and commitment of student musicians and parents like you. Our goal is to perform at the highest level possible at all times and to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to reach our fullest potential. This concept holds true for our musical and extra-curricular activities. We are all expected to do our very best to continue the build on the great traditions of the Ocean Lakes High School Bands and to improve as musicians and individuals every day.

MARCHING BAND

Marching ensembles are a hallmark of the high school band experience. The Marching Dolphins are a band with a storied tradition of excellence and competitive success. Excellence is rooted in a love of music and an adherence to guidelines to help us all be successful.

The marching band is open to any student enrolled at Ocean Lakes High School. The Marching Dolphins perform at football games, competitions, parades, and community events. Intensive rehearsals known as "Band Camp" are held during the summer. Band camp is the only time we dedicate to teaching details of the marching technique, memorizing show music, and learning the drill to the field show. Additionally, the band forms the bonds that carry them through the season. It is imperative for all members to attend all rehearsals during the summer. When school starts, rehearsals are relegated to the evenings and after school as we polish our competition show.

Auditions for the marching band drumline are held in the spring of each year. The audition process is a series of clinics. Dates, times, and audition materials will be announced each spring.

COLOR GUARD

The color guard is an auditioned group that is open to all rising 9th-12th grade Ocean Lakes High School Students. They are not required to be enrolled in a band class to become a member of the color guard. The color guard is a part of the marching band and considered an extra-curricular offering of the band program. As such they are eligible for and expected to adhere to all the privileges and responsibilities of the OLHS bands.

Auditions are a series of dance and spin clinics held each spring. Dates, times, locations and requirements will be announced each spring.

CONCERT BANDS

Members of the Ocean Lakes High School Band Program work towards improving their basic skills of playing through concentrated daily study of rhythmic exercise, tone studies, proper posture, basic fundamentals, and scale study in addition to performance of appropriate musical repertoire. After/ Before school performances and rehearsals are required for all concert bands at Ocean Lakes High School and will be held two to three weeks before each scheduled concert. For a list of concert and performances please refer to the Calendar of Events.

BEGINNING BAND

The Beginning Band is for any student with little to no prior experience on a band instrument. Students may begin on any brass or woodwind instrument but are especially encouraged to play

instruments that are in greater demand in the band program. The Beginning Band performs at the Fall, Winter and the Spring Concerts. For specific rehearsal and concert dates, please refer to the Calendar of Events.

SYMPHONIC BAND

The Symphonic Band is for Intermediate 9th-12th graders and occasionally members of the Beginning Band who have advanced fast enough in the first semester. The Symphonic Band performs grade III-V Literature at the Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors State Assessment Concert in March. Members of this ensemble are expected to have a basic understanding of key signatures, rhythms, and musical notation.

Members of the Symphonic Band are required to participate in the following activities: Fall Concert, Winter Concert, Assessment Concert and Spring Concert,. Students are encouraged to participate in the following activities: All-City Band, All-District Band, Solo and Ensemble, and The Marching Dolphins.

WIND ENSEMBLE

The Wind Ensemble is the highest performance band at Ocean Lakes High School. Comprised of the most talented musical students, the Wind Ensemble performs grade V/VI Literature at the Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors State Assessment Concert in March, and represents Ocean Lakes High School for its eligibility as an Honor Band and Blue Ribbon School. Members of this ensemble are expected to have a firm understanding of all key signatures, advance rhythmic patterns, and advance musical notation.

Members of the Wind Ensemble are required to participate in the following activities: Fall Concert, Winter Concert, All-District Band Auditions, Assessment Concert, Spring Concert, Pyramid Concerts, and Solo and Ensemble. Students are encouraged to participate in the Marching Dolphins to better prepare themselves for band at the high school level.

JAZZ BAND

The Ocean Lakes Jazz Band at Ocean Lakes High School will provide students the opportunity to explore music outside of the classical realm. Improvisation skills will be encouraged, but not required. The membership of the Jazz Band is selected through auditions in the fall. This group meets exclusively after school and participation in all rehearsals is required. The jazz ensemble studies and performs music in various jazz styles including but not exclusive to Swing, Be-Bop, Cool Jazz, Hard Bop, avant-garde, Free Jazz, and Jazz-Rock Fusion.

When there is a sufficient amount of student interest, the Jazz Band will be organized on a yearly basis. Entrance into Jazz Band will be by invitation or audition only. The Jazz Band will meet for the full year after school and perform for local civic organizations and concerts. To be eligible for participation a student must audition for the Band Director and be available to make all required rehearsals. Vacancies may be filled by invitation. Students will be exposed to different jazz styles such as swing, be-bop, blues-rock, and funk. Instrumentation is limited to: 2-4 alto saxophones, 2-3 tenor saxophones, 1-2 baritone saxophone, 3-5 trombones, 3-6 trumpets, 1 piano, 2-3 percussionists (as needed), electric bass and guitar.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ENSEMBLES

If a student would like to start an extra-curricular ensemble, they should contact the Band Director. Each ensemble will be considered annually based on student interest.

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Percussion ensemble gives OLHS percussionists the opportunity to study mallet, snare and multiple percussion techniques in a homogenous setting. In this class students will rehearse music for concerts and percussion-only pieces.

INDOOR COLOR GUARD/DRUMLINE

Indoor guard and indoor drumline are not standing ensembles but will be considered annually based on student interest, staffing availability, rehearsal facilities, and budget. These extra-curricular ensembles will be auditioned in the late fall and will rehearse and compete throughout the spring. After school rehearsals and competitions are a required part of membership in these ensembles.

III. RULES, REGULATIONS AND OBLIGATIONS

FINANCES

The City of Virginia Beach Public Schools system does not provide funding for individual high school marching band programs. Funding for operational expenses must come from annual band fees and additional fundraising activities throughout the year by band members that are supported by the Association. Band fees are non-refundable. The Band Director and Executive Board will determine annual fees in coordination with the preparation of the budget. Rights to music, drill and basic instruction, special instructors, transportation, uniforms and accessories, and competition fees will be factors in determining the annual band fees. Annual band fees are due by the dates established by the Executive Board.

If a student is not in good standing at the end of the marching or concert season with any instructional fees, equipment fees, uniform fees, or money owed from a fundraiser, all points in their student account will be applied to their debt at that time. Until such debt is cleared in full the student cannot participate in any other extra-curricular activities, events, or ensembles associated with the band program. Families with more than one marching band member shall receive a 10% discount per student.

BAND FEES

Ensemble	Amount	Description
Marching Band	\$500*	Five Payment Plan: \$150-May 30, \$87.50-June 30, \$87.50, July 30, \$87.50 Aug 30 and \$87.50 Sept 30
Concert Bands (Beginning Band/Symphonic Band/Wind Ensemble)	\$85 for non-Marching Band	Payment in full due NO LATER THAN October 15
Indoor Drumline	\$ TBD	TBD
Indoor Color Guard	\$ TBD	TBD

*10% Discount for siblings

REHEARSAL TECHNIQUE

Since the bands are performance-based classes, rehearsal techniques are especially important. Students should participate responsibly and have all necessary equipment for all performances and rehearsals. Additionally, all rehearsals and performances are mandatory and are covered under the rehearsal techniques sections of the grade. Each student begins the quarter with an "A" (4.0) in rehearsal techniques. Deductions are made based on rehearsal etiquette points. Students are expected to have the following items at all rehearsals before, during, or after school:

All Music	Pencil	FOCUS	Tuner
Bell Ringer Packet	OLB Warm-up Packet and Method Books	Proper instrument equipment (mutes, extra reeds, marching shoes, etc)	Passion and Enthusiasm

Ultimately, good rehearsal etiquette will result in good performances. Proper rehearsal etiquette will be expected at all times. Proper rehearsal etiquette not only lends itself to an efficient and profitable

rehearsal, but also establishes a healthy and stimulating atmosphere. Most importantly it shows your dedication and commitment to the Ocean Lakes High School Band Program.

ATTENDANCE

All band members are expected to be present for all rehearsal and performances. To be considered for membership of the Ocean Lakes High School Bands, you are then responsible for all functions of the band, including rehearsals, performances, and fund-raising activities. **Membership in the Ocean Lakes High School Band Program is a FULL-TIME COMMITMENT. Students will be expected to work outside the classroom to succeed in the courses.** It is the student's responsibility to notify the director of his/her absence well in advance of the date of absence by submitting an absence form, which must include a signature from a parent or guardian. All written excuses of any type are to be given directly to the band director immediately.

Excused absences from a rehearsal will only be considered with a written letter from a parent or guardian at least one week before the rehearsal. Notes after this time will not be accepted as excused. In cases of emergency or illness, special considerations will be given. Absences from a rehearsal with no prior notification to the Band Director will be considered unexcused and will result in a detention. If a student is absent from school, due to illness, on a day of a rehearsal or concert, it will be assumed that he/she will be unable to attend a performance.

Excused absences from a performance will only be considered with a written letter from a parent or guardian as soon as possible before the performance. **An unexcused absence from a concert will result in a parent-student-teacher conference.**

EQUIPMENT

Most band students at Ocean Lakes High School own their own instruments or rent them from local music dealers. Ocean Lakes High School also has a number of instruments available for use. These instruments are primarily the larger and more expensive instruments not often available for rental from music stores. Students using school-owned instruments have a music instrument contract.

Each student is responsible for the music and method materials provided to him/her during the school year. If a method book is lost or damaged beyond normal wear, the student will be charged for its replacement. A fee is charged for each sheet of music that is lost or severely damaged. Students who use school instruments are responsible for all accessories and equipment which may be supplied with the instrument, including mouthpieces, ligatures, mouthpiece caps, neck straps, bocals, seat straps, reed holders, and cleaning material. The students are expected to replace any items that are damaged or lost since these materials are not covered for replacement in the Instrument Music Contract.

INSTRUMENT AND EQUIPMENT USE

Instrument Music Contracts will be maintained by the Director of Bands and used for all members wishing to remove school owned equipment from the band facilities. Under no circumstance is any item of school owned equipment to be removed from the band room without a written instrument music contract. Students who use instruments from the band program are expected to treat all equipment with care and respect all other member's equipment, personally or school owned. Students are not to touch anyone else's instrument.

EQUIPMENT REPAIRS

School owned instruments damaged through normal use and wear are repaired at no cost to the student. Students should report any damage immediately to the Band Director. Students will be required to pay for damage due to negligence. If an instrument, school or privately owned, fails to function properly the student should bring it to the Band Director as soon as possible. Please do not try to fix the instrument on your own. The Band Director will make all instrument repair orders.

EQUIPMENT STORAGE

An instrument storage room is available for the students in the band program and is located adjacent to the band rehearsal room. Students are assigned shelves based on instrument size needs. The storage room opens at 8a.m. and remains open during the day until 4:30p.m. However, students are expected to take their instruments home each day to practice. Students with larger instruments will be given a practice instrument to take home. Privately owned instruments are not covered by school insurance policies. Each instrument must be properly identified with the student's name, address, and telephone number on a luggage tag attached to the instrument case.

UNIFORMS

All Ocean Lakes High School Bands perform in uniform. When you put the uniform on, it should be worn with pride because you are representing the Ocean Lakes Band program. Your part in this tradition includes keeping the uniform clean and neat. It also means looking dignified at all times. When not being worn, uniforms must be hung properly on each students designated hanger, to insure that we look our best at our next performance. Students will be held financially responsible for any damage to or loss of any part of the uniform.

The following page lists the requirements for each ensembles specific uniform:

MARCHING BAND UNIFORMS:

- Hair must be off the collar of the uniform. Students with long hair will need to pull hair back into a ponytail or braid.
- Trouser length should be the proper length with shoes on. (If you grow during the season, tell a band parent!)
- Aussies are worn with the brim even with the eye brows.
- No jewelry of any kind
- No colored nail polish
- Shoes are clean
- Gloves are part of the uniform
- Tall black socks with uniform
- Limited, skin-toned make up only while in uniform. (excluding color guard)
- Band shirts are to be worn under the uniform.

COLOR GUARD UNIFORMS:

Color guard uniforms include the costume, hair style, make up, and jewelry. All uniform decisions will be determined by the director and color guard instructor(s). Members of the color guard may not make any changes to the uniform without the approval of the director.

SPIRIT WARM UP SUIT:

When not in uniform students will be required to wear their Warm Up Suit. The suit consists of pants, jacket and the bands show shirt. It is to be kept neat and clean, and brought with the student to every performance. All other uniform guidelines apply while wearing the Warm up Suit.

CONCERT BAND UNIFORMS:

- | | | | |
|------|----------------------|--------|-----------------------|
| Men: | - Black Tuxedo Pants | Women: | - Black Concert Dress |
| | - White Dress Shirt | | - Black Dress Shoes |
| | - Black Dress Shoes | | - Appropriate Jewelry |
| | - Black Socks | | |
| | - Black Bowtie | | |
| | - Black Cumberbund | | |

STUDENT CONDUCT

The Ocean Lakes High School Band Program is a large organization that directly reflects the standards and expectations of Ocean Lakes High School. Members of any ensemble are expected to demonstrate exemplary student behavior at all rehearsals, performances and festivals. Discipline is an important life skill that will be taught through the participation of any band. Misbehavior will not be tolerated. Students will receive a warning for misbehavior before receiving a demerit point towards their rehearsal techniques grade.

All Band members including the Color Guard will sit together in the stands filling in rows before starting another. Non- band members are not permitted to sit within the band. Throughout the duration of any performance, students will follow any and all directions given by the Drum Major(s) and Band Director.

CONDUCT WHILE IN UNIFORMS:

- No public displays of affection (PDA)
- No running, rough housing, horseplay, or other foolishness
- No foul or inappropriate language
- Make only positive comments out loud about other bands
- No eating or chewing gum in full uniform.
 - o You will remove your jacket to eat during third quarter break and when the band parents feed you for events.

AUDITION REGULATIONS

Auditions for the Jazz Bands at Ocean Lakes High School will take place after school during the fall semesters. The playing audition will consist of style demonstrations, improvisation skills, a prepared piece demonstrating jazz mastery, and sight-reading material. Students will also be expected to know the harmonic progression of a blues scale. Seating will be arranged in the best interest of the band, and will be subject to change if student is unable to meet the rehearsal requirements.

CHALLENGE SYSTEM

The challenge system is available for band members who have been placed lower in a lower chair within their respective section and wish to improve their rank. This system is in effect throughout the entire school year with the exception of two weeks before any performance. Challenges should be viewed in the spirit of cooperation and courtesy.

Challenge requests must be given to the Band Director, who will then schedule the challenge no less than one week in advance. Music to be used in the challenge will be selected by the director and also include two major scales, chromatic scale, and sight reading. A student may not re-challenge for two weeks after winning a challenge.

BAND LETTERS

Members participating in the Ocean Lakes High School Bands are eligible for various medal, stars, and pins representing their satisfactorily meeting the requirements for the awards. *Earning a letter or star represents service and participation beyond the minimum requirements of attendance and performance.* Musicians must earn 20 musicianship points by the deadline of one week prior to the annual awards banquet. Color guard members must earn 12 musicianship points prior to the same deadline. Once a student has lettered, a star is given for each additional year they meet the lettering requirement.

What to Do	Points
Marching Band Perfect Attendance	10
Marching Band- 1 excused absence	9
Marching band- 2 excused absences	8
Marching band - 3 excused absences	7
Winter Guard- Perfect Attendance	10
Winter Guard- 1 excused absence	9
Winter Guard- 2 Excused Absences	8
Winter Guard- 3 excused absences	7
Attend all concert band performances	5
Audition for All- District Band	1
Participate in All-District Band	3
Audition for All - Virginia Band/Orchestra	1
Participate in All-Virginia Band/Orchestra	5
Superior solo at Solo and Ensemble Festival	3
Excellent solo at Solo and Ensemble Festival	2
Superior ensemble at Solo and Ensemble Festival	2
Excellent ensemble at Solo and Ensemble Festival	1
Private lessons (on a band instrument)	1 per quarter
Participation in other OLHS ensembles with no unexcused absences	3
Summer Leadership or music camps	5

IV. GRADING POLICY FOR ENSEMBLE CLASSES

Performances (50%) – Band is primarily a performance based course. Students will be graded on their attendance and preparation for concerts. Proper attire, conduct in the audience, posture on stage, uniform cleanliness, etc. will be factored into every student’s performance grade. Students are expected to arrive at a performance already in concert attire and with enough time to warm up individually before warming up with the band.

Tests and Quizzes (25%) – Most tests and quizzes will be on musical performance. There will be few written activities covering music notation, vocabulary, and theory. The playing tests will usually be performed on SmartMusic during band rehearsal. Occasionally students will be asked to perform individually in class.

Rehearsal Techniques (15%) - Since the bands are performance-based classes, the rehearsal techniques are especially important. Students should participate responsibly and have all necessary equipment for all performances and rehearsals. **All rehearsals leading up to performances are mandatory and are covered under the rehearsal techniques sections of the grade.**

Homework (10%) – Occasionally, written work outside of class will be assigned to enforce music fundamentals such as music notation, vocabulary, and theory. Homework will be available through the band website, and is expected to be returned the following class period unless otherwise stated by the Band Director. **Additionally, all forms requiring a signature will be treated as homework, and will be expected to be returned the following class period.**

EXPECTATIONS

The Ocean Lakes High School Band Program has become one of the most highly respected programs in Virginia Beach. This is due to the hard work and commitment of student musicians like you. Our goal is to perform at the highest level possible at all times and to develop skills and knowledge necessary to reach our full potential. This concept holds true for our musical and extra-curricular activities. We are all expected to do our very best to continue the build on the great traditions of the Ocean Lakes High School Bands and to improve as musicians and individuals every day.

PROCEDURES

1. Be on time and prepared for every rehearsal and performance. Please be in your seat with all necessary materials out when rehearsal begins.
2. Come to all rehearsals with: instrument, band music in band folder, accessories (mutes, extra reeds, etc.) and a pencil.
3. Daily practice is expected of all band students. Students are expected to practice school and private lesson music regularly. Many students find it helpful to set up a regularly scheduled time for daily practice sessions.
4. Talking and playing out of turn cannot be tolerated. Good music making relies on your ears and concentration.

5. Honor all requests made by the band director, substitutes, sectional instructors, and staff members. These people are here to help you improve as an individual and as a band member. Your cooperation and assistance is expected.

EXTRA CREDIT

Students can earn extra credit points each grading period based on a percentage scale. A parent signature is required to verify the extra credit earned. The extra credit will count towards the practice records section of the grade. Students can earn extra credit each quarter for the following activities:

- **Attend one or more concert performances** - Attend a musical concert of your choice and bring a program from the performance along with a parent's signature. Be prepared to express your liking or disliking of the performance with the band director. Your opinion matters! **(1 point)**
- **Private Lessons** - Students may earn extra credit for weekly private lessons. Student must take at least 2 lessons per month in order to receive extra credit. **(2 points, only accepted for one quarter)**
- **Participation in District Band/All State Concerts** - Participation in any outside band program other than Ocean Lakes High School such as All-District Band, All-State Band, Senior Regional Orchestra, etc. is highly encouraged by the Band Director. **(3 points)**

**Return this form SIGNED (front and back) to Mr. Rowles
by the end of the first week of school!**

I have read the information contained in the Band Handbook and I understand the requirements of the Ocean Lakes High School Band Program and its grading policy and agree to abide by the stated policies.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

I have read the information contained in the Ocean Lakes High School Band Handbook and agree to support my son/daughter's efforts to carry out these policies.

Parent's Name(s) (Please print): _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please PRINT the following information:

Student's Name: _____ DOB: _____

Instrument(s): _____ Grade: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ ZIP: _____ Phone: _____

Parent's E-mail: _____

Student's e-mail (if different from parents): _____





VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A H E A D O F T H E C U R V E

Department of Media and Communications

**Parental Release for Interviewing, Photographing, Videotaping/Audio-recording,
and Web Postings of Students**
School Year 2016-17

I am the parent/guardian of _____, who is currently enrolled as a student with the Virginia Beach City Public Schools (“the School Division”). I recognize that, as part of the educational process, there may be times when the School Division, or someone properly authorized by the School Division, such as media representatives, may want to interview, photograph, and/or videotape a student. Consequently, I grant permission to the School Division, and to anyone properly authorized by the administration of the School Division, to interview, photograph, audio-record and/or videotape my student during regular school hours on school grounds and/or at student activities.

This grant of permission means that, in addition to other appropriate uses (which include, but are not limited to, inclusion in or on School Division publications, promotional materials, advertisements, presentations, and programs) information obtained from the student and the student’s likeness and name may be used in conjunction with or by any medium, including print, electronic, radio, and television. This form also grants permission for posting student images on a School Division Web site.

The purposes for which this Release may be used and the procedures relating to its use are governed by all pertinent School Division policies, procedures, rules, and regulations.

By signing this Release, I waive any cause of action I may have, or that the student may have, against the School Division pertaining to the reproduction, publication, and/or use of information obtained from the student and/or the student’s name or likeness. I acknowledge that I may revoke this Release at any time during the school year by mailing or delivering a written notice of revocation to my student’s principal or the Department of Media and Communications, 2512 George Mason Drive, Virginia Beach, Va. 23456-0038.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Signature
(for students 18 and above)

Date

Street Address

Home Phone Number

City, State, and Zip Code

Name of Student’s School