

Hey Bones,

Congratulations on deciding to audition for the Marching Virginians, and even better, the trombone section! To old members, welcome back! To new members, we are very excited to meet you and are glad that you have decided to join such an amazing and rewarding group. Being in the Marching Virginians gives us a tremendous opportunity to support our school in a variety of unique ways. I think most people would agree that cheering on the Hokies in Lane Stadium is an experience unlike any other. We scream like lunatics, dance like fools, and play thrilling music which makes the college marching band experience absolutely incredible. I can speak for the rest of leadership in saying that joining the Marching Virginians was one of the best decisions we have made in college. The traditions and relationships developed by our section only enrich the experience.

This season is sure to be an exciting one! We are super excited to welcome back Dr. Polly Middleton for her first year as the Director of Athletic Bands at Virginia Tech. We will hopefully take trips to the ACC Championship and a major Bowl Game! We will also be holding rehearsals in our very own Marching Virginians Center (MVC)! As always, we will continue to support the Hokie Nation with our annual food drive, energetic pep rallies, and various other service projects throughout the year.

Band camp begins on August 21st for new members and August 22nd for returning members. During this time, we will teach all of our marching techniques as well as learn music and drill in preparation for our first game. Most of the information can be found on the Marching Virginians website (www.spiritoftech.com), however, here are some highlights and specifics that apply to trombones:

1. Your entire Marching Virginians uniform will be provided for you, with the exception of shoes. Your first pair of white gloves will be provided. Additional pairs can be purchased from one of the band service fraternities during the season for just a few dollars. Shoes must be purchased before our first performance, the sooner the better. They must be black Drillmasters, Pinnacle, Dinkles, Director's Showcase, Vanguard, or other marching shoes, NOT black dress/tennis shoes.
2. Instruments will be provided for you, however, you may bring your personal horn to audition on or to participate in one of our many other concert bands. If you have additional questions regarding concert bands, feel free to ask us.

3. If you prefer your own mouthpiece, you can bring it but it must have a large shank. Small shank mouthpieces will not fit our instruments. To make the best sound for the section and for the band, we do not allow plastic/acrylic mouthpieces. If you do not have a large shank mouthpiece, one will be provided for you.
4. Do not buy a lyre, even if that is included in the band camp information. The MV Bones are provided flipbooks that attach directly to your bells. If you are returning and have a flip book from previous years, please bring it! If you have a collapsible music stand you would like to bring to band camp for music rehearsal, please feel free, but there is no need to purchase one.
5. For the music audition, you will receive a packet of our most played music and possible selections. We will ask you to play several sections from this packet so be sure to practice all of it! You should also be able to play your major scales, but if you have further questions email us!

We look forward to getting to know everyone at band camp, and anticipate a great rookie class to help grow the MV Bones. While music and marching are very important to our audition process, we want to remind everyone that a great attitude is just as important. Be positive, excited, and ready to have some fun! If you have any questions about audition materials, what to bring, being an MV Bone, or anything else, please do not hesitate to email one of us; we will all be happy to help!

Please remember that joining this band is a commitment. We support this university and the entire community with our spirit and dedication to excellence. As a member of this band you are expected to show up to all practices and games. School always comes first, but it is your job to be present and ready for practices and performances.

See you in Blacksburg and Go Hokies,

Section Leader:

Joseph Tolley, Computer Engineering (jtolley@vt.edu)

Rank Captains:

James Bittner, Marketing Management (james17@vt.edu)

Evan Hornstein, Business Information Technology (evanjh24@vt.edu)

Maggie Hybl, Biology (hmaggie7@vt.edu)

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