

# Houston County High School Color Guard 2009-2010 Student & Parent Information/Agreement

## STUDENTS & PARENTS—

# PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU SIGN ANYTHING... AND COMPLETE ALL FORMS.

As you are trying out and trying us out, we need to be very sure that you and your parents are aware of what is expected of you during the audition and, more importantly, what is expected of ALL students selected for membership.

As you read each of the following, please take time to review all of the attached information we have provided. Please also ask any questions you may have.

### **MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA:**

Membership criteria are very demanding and passing the audition will say much for your dedication, character, and work ethic. This group is extremely committed to working hard to achieve its goals.

Members must be registered students at Houston County High School to participate in Color Guard. If you are involved in several school activities (clubs, drama, track, cheerleading, R.O.T.C., etc.), you may want to examine your schedule to determine if you have enough time to participate in Color Guard. There will be times that these activities overlap with band practices or performances and you ***can't do both!*** Also, please know that our rehearsal and performance schedule is very intense. You will need to manage your time wisely so that you can maintain the best average possible with your grades. Schoolwork is the most important responsibility you have, and, many people find it very difficult to manage enough time for both schoolwork and practices.

Membership responsibilities extend for ***one full school year\****. (\*Generally we are finished with marching band commitments by our Winter Holidays, but on rare occasions we may have a commitment in the Spring.)

*\*\*Members participate at the discretion of the Guard Instructor and the Band Director.*

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

- ALL rehearsals and performances are REQUIRED!!! This includes practices that are listed on the calendar as TBA (to be announced). Keep these possible practice calendar dates open.
- When possible, the color guard director or band director(s) should be notified in advance of a student's absence. The band room office (988-6365) is equipped with an answering machine...please leave a message!
- If advance notification is not possible, the color guard director should be notified immediately upon the student's return as to the reason for the absence. **WRITTEN NOTICE, FROM THE STUDENT'S PARENTS, IS REQUIRED!**
- Illness, death in the family, and family emergency constitute an excused absence. Job conflicts, non-emergency doctor appointments, absences due to restriction or punishment at home, are NOT considered excused.
- In all cases, the director has the final decision as to whether or not an absence is excused.
- Color Guard members are *allowed* three (3) unexcused absences from rehearsals. Upon the third unexcused absence from rehearsal, the student will no longer be allowed to participate in the program. **(please note: all fees will be due and NO REFUNDS will be given!)**

- Any member who misses more than one rehearsal in any given week, whether excused or unexcused, may or may not be allowed to march in that week's performance.
- If you miss a Thursday rehearsal, you will **NOT** be allowed to march during that week's game. You will be expected to attend the game and you will remain in the stands at half-time.
- Any Color Guard member who has an unexcused absence from a performance will no longer be allowed to participate in the marching band.
- Two (2) late arrivals to rehearsal or performance = (1) unexcused absence.
- Color Guard members may NOT leave rehearsal or performance early, unless excused by the director. Leaving early will count as being late. If more than half of the rehearsal or performance is missed, it will count as an absence, either excused or unexcused.

### **DRESS CODE:**

- Proper clothing, including undergarments, will be worn to all practices and performances (including band camp). Refer to your student handbook for guidelines regarding shorts, tank tops, etc. Wear comfortable, loose, light-colored clothing for practices- No skirts (see instructor for exceptions).
- Tennis shoes will be worn to ALL practices--NO EXCEPTIONS!!! (This is for your safety). NO SANDALS OR FLIP FLOPS!
- Uniforms will be worn to ALL performances (unless instructed otherwise). It is your responsibility to make sure that you have every part of your uniform at each performance, (including your shoes, gloves, make-up, etc.), and making sure that ALL parts of your uniform is clean and neat.

### **OTHER REQUIREMENTS:**

- During band camp and after-school practices, you will need to wear sunscreen (your precious skin cannot be replaced!!!). Wear anything you can to protect yourself from the sun.....hats, sunglasses, sunscreen, etc. You may also want to bring bug spray.....the gnats get pretty bad sometimes!!! This requirement is optional, but highly recommended!
- **REQUIRED, not optional....**Please **BRING PLENTY OF WATER** (no excuses). You may wear the "back-pack" or "camel" style water container if you wish, but please bring a larger container for refills since these styles don't hold very much water. It gets extremely hot & humid during the summer and early fall months!!! ***If you are sensitive to EXTREME TEMPERATURES (hot or cold) you may want to choose another activity in which to participate.***
- ***Make sure you DO NOT "skip" meals!!!*** This is very dangerous in the heat. If the lunchroom runs out of food in the line you choose, please eat in another line to make sure you get food. If you find this to be a continuous problem, ***BRING YOUR LUNCH or a HEALTHY SNACK so that you are not in the heat on an empty stomach!!!!!!***
- If you choose to come to practice or a performance unprepared (without proper clothing, missing uniform parts, wearing sandals or heels at practice, without water to drink, etc.) you will be sent home and the absence will be unexcused. You do not have the option of having a parent bring the item you forgot! So be prepared and be responsible!!! If you tend to forget things, get a notepad and "write it down" or, for example, keep an extra pair of tennis shoes in your locker/book bag!!!
- ***ALL STUDENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO KNOW, BY MEMORY, ALL FOOTBALL BAND ROUTINES BY THE FIRST FOOTBALL GAME, AND ALL COMPETITION ROUTINES BY THE FIRST COMPETITION. FAILURE TO KNOW YOUR ROUTINES BY THESE DATES WILL RESULT IN YOUR REMOVAL FROM THE TEAM. IF YOU ARE REMOVED YOU WILL STILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL FEES AND NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN!***

**ATTITUDE:** *Life is 10% of what happens to you and 90% of how you react to it!!*

Members of the color guard are expected to conduct themselves like young adults. You can earn a reputation in 2 seconds and have to live with it a lifetime! As a member of the color guard you should be uplifting and encouraging to one another. You are responsible for your actions and your choices. An enthusiastic and supportive attitude, along with hard work and a "giving spirit", will ensure the success of the **"TEAM"**.

Undermining or destroying the dignity, character, or self-esteem of a fellow member (including gossiping & creating drama) will not be tolerated! This type of negative attitude is a "cancer" to our organization and if you choose this behavior you will be removed from the color guard. All members will show respect to ALL adult band staff members and to ALL of our parent volunteers. Without these people our organization would not exist.

### **FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES:**

**Students selected for membership will be responsible for a financial obligation to the program of up to \$500 - \$600 as reasonably estimated below (includes any optional purchases, activity fee, equipment, & uniform related items). Please note that the Band offers several fund raisers each year, some of which members can use to directly reduce their fees.**

NO STUDENT WILL BE DENIED MEMBERSHIP DUE TO FINANCIAL NEED. STUDENTS (and parents) ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR **ALL** FEES. PARTICIPATION IN ALL BAND FUNDRAISERS IS EXPECTED OF **ALL** MEMBERS, ESPECIALLY OF THOSE WHO EXPRESS A NEED FOR HELP IN FULFILLING THEIR FINANCIAL OBLIGATION TO THE PROGRAM. PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE TAILORED TO YOUR FAMILY'S BUDGET NEEDS WHEN ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE IN ADVANCE.

What follows are our best estimates for uniform, equipment, and band fees. Significant differences between these estimates and the actual costs are not expected; however, minimal differences are likely and exact prices and invoices will be provided for members prior to the end of the current school year.

<b>UNIFORM:</b>	<b><u>Estimated Price**</u></b>
Uniform (pants & top, or dress)	\$125-150 (or less)
Shoes	\$38
Gloves	\$12
Wind Suit Jacket	\$60 (or less)
Band T-Shirt (dress-down uniform)	\$10
Practice Flag	\$25
Rifle w/tape	\$35 (39" with strap)
Activity Fee	<u>\$175</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$505.00</b>

**\$175 ACTIVITY FEE:** *(included in above estimate)* The Color Guard is just one part of the marching band; therefore, members are responsible for all applicable band fees. The **Activity Fee is \$175 for Color Guard members;** (instrument playing band student is \$275). This fee goes towards the purchase of equipment, contest entry fees, the purchase of music, instructors, drill writers, music writers, transportation/drivers, etc. for the school year.

**\*\*See next page for Optional Purchases.**

## ***FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES (continued):***

### OPTIONAL PURCHASES:

Duffel Bag (optional)	\$30 (w/name & logo)
Sabre (optional)	\$100

The cost is usually higher the first year of a student's participation. The following items can be used from year to year and do not need to be purchased the second year: Shoes, gloves, duffel bag, wind suit jacket, rifle, practice flag, & saber (unless these items become damaged and need replacement). That is approximately \$200-\$300 less than what a first-year student has to pay. The students get to keep everything that they have paid for, including their uniforms.

*Each student will receive a detailed invoice of their individual items purchased with the cost listed for those items.* Members will also be responsible for their own make-up and required undergarments. Details will be given to members as available. These items are typically generic, so we let individuals take care of these on their own.

Students will have the opportunity to participate in several fundraisers, that the band will offer throughout the year, to off-set the cost of participation. A monthly schedule of payments will be furnished for each student's account.

\*\*\*For more information regarding the band and it's finances, every parent is welcome to attend our Band Booster meetings which are held on the 1st Tuesday of every calendar at 7 p.m. in the band room. You are also welcome to join our Booster organization. Parent volunteers are a vital part of our success.....we can't do it without you!

## ***WINTER GUARD (participation optional):***

If your student decides to join our most advanced group, the Winter Guard there is a separate Activity Fee to participate in this activity. Practices begin in November with the competition season running Jan. 1 – Mar. 30. Activity Fees will be based on the number of students we have participating. An informational meeting, including auditions, will be held sometime in September or October...dates TBA.

## ***PARENTAL COMMITMENT:***

Parents please support and encourage your child to study, complete school work, practice routines, participate in fundraisers, and above all to do their very best and have a great attitude. They truly depend on your support, encouragement, and approval.

Also, please try to schedule *non-emergency* doctor visits around practice. We will provide you with a complete calendar that will have all rehearsal schedules. Occasionally we will call extra practices, if needed, and scheduling conflicts may occur. This will not happen often. Every effort will be made to give you plenty of advanced notice of a schedule change.

Parents, we ask that IF you need to punish your child for low grades, misbehavior, etc., that you choose some other form of punishment than pulling them out of the *Competition Band* program. The reason for this is that your child is a very important part of our program. It takes each person to make the performance a success. When one person is missing from the performance during competition, the whole band is penalized points for the "hole" in the show. Every student works very hard and should not be punished because of one student's behavior.

All PARENTS are invited to JOIN US for **BAND PARENT 101** on **Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>**. Color Guard parents begin at **10:30 a.m.** (to be joined by more Band Parents at 11:00 a.m.).

Band Parent 101 is an informational meeting for parents on what to expect in the upcoming season. We will cover “Color-Guard-Specific” details between 10:30 & 11:00 in addition to the information covered by the band director between 11:00 & 12:00. We will answer any questions you may have during this meeting.

Immediately following Band Parent 101, you are invited to join us for a **COOK-OUT** with hamburgers and hotdogs. There’s no charge for lunch, so come join us for fun and fellowship with the kids and other band parents!

***Parents, thank you in advance for your support and encouragement. You, too, make this program a success!!!***

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Catreece Fritts, Color Guard Director, at 478-747-8125 or e-mail at [rcfritts@windstream.net](mailto:rcfritts@windstream.net)

After reading this Student and Parent Information Packet, please SIGN & RETURN the Student and Parent Agreement Form to Mrs. Catreece Fritts no later than Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.