



Glen Burnie High School Color Guard

2018 Outdoor Season

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Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of the 2018 Glen Burnie Color Guard. This packet provides information to assist you in understanding the commitment required to be a member of our color guard team. Please take time to read through this information carefully with your parents/guardians. The last page of this packet is the form that must be signed by each student and their parent/guardian before officially becoming a member. Please reach out to me anytime with any questions or concerns that you may have.

What is Color Guard?

Color guard is a performing art! It is a combination of dance, equipment, theatrics, physical strength and stamina...that make up a true sport of the arts. Color guard is a rapidly growing activity; it now exists in the United States, Canada, Belgium, Holland, Germany, England, Ireland, Korea, Japan, and Africa. Color guard has been modernized from its original use in military ceremonies or veteran organization ceremonies. It is now a multifaceted program of its own which includes multiple forms of expression. There are two seasons: outdoor and indoor. The outdoor color guard lasts from the summer months through November. The indoor season lasts from about January to May.

Outdoor color guards can be found in most American colleges, universities, high schools, and private organizations like independent drum corps. They use various equipment including flags, rifles, sabres, and props (along with a lot of dance vocabulary) to enhance a marching band's overall performance. Usually the marching band and color guard members work together to perform a show during football games at halftime. There are also competitions specifically held for marching bands. During marching band competitions the guard both adds to the "effect" score that the band receives and is also judged in a separate "visual" category.

Indoor color guard takes the same skills that students have learned in the outdoor season and translates them into a more technical and intimate setting. As the name describes, indoor guard is an inside activity performed in a gymnasium or an indoor arena. Performances make use of recorded music rather than a live band or orchestra. You will learn much more about indoor color guard as the season progresses.

What Skills will Members Learn?

As staff in the music department, we strive to motivate and inspire young adults to learn and grow as individuals and as performers. My main goal as a color guard instructor is to promote a creative outlet for students and model that all individuals should feel empowered to express themselves. Being a member of our program, just like any other extracurricular activity, students will enhance skills of self-discipline, self-care, and self-respect.

Due to the rehearsal and competition schedule, students will have to sacrifice some of their social/free time with friends and family; creating opportunities to learn time management and prioritizing skills. Students will learn to set routines and set limits for themselves. Within each rehearsal is a schedule that will include: exercises to build strength and endurance; technical instruction of classic ballet and modern dance moves/routines; technical instruction for each piece of equipment (flag, sabre, rifle); exercises to increase body and spatial awareness; individualized coaching to build confidence in theatrical performing skills; scheduled time for team bonding activities; and so much more!

How much Time Will Members Spend with this Program?

Included is a skeleton of what our schedule will look like from now until next November. For the outdoor season, students typically spend at least two afternoons/evenings a week at rehearsal. If there is a football game hosted by Glen Burnie High, the band and guard will practice afterschool and then stay to perform at the football game (during halftime). As you will see in the calendar there are a few Saturdays that our program will meet; we will spend the morning rehearsing, then the afternoon and evening together as we travel and perform our show at a local marching band competition.

Who is in Charge?

On performance days, your child will be under the supervision of Chris McMahan (Band Director), Kimberly Smith (Percussion Director), and myself (Color Guard Director). Chris is employed by Anne Arundel Public Schools/GBHS as the Band Director. Kimberly and I have undergone background checks, fingerprinting, and approvals from the county to hold the contracts as instructors.

On rehearsal days, I will be working directly with the members. There may be times that I will host guest instructors to come and work with members to learn more about a specific skill. Hunter Tereyla, Raquel Hamner, Summer Young, and McKenna Clark are instructors in the field that have all graduated from Glen Burnie, received more education about performing, and

would like to return as technicians to share their knowledge. They have all been through the proper requirements (background checks and fingerprinting) to be approved volunteers.

Parent Involvement

The marching band and color guard programs only function well with parental support. We would love if you volunteered some of your time and effort to your child's program. There will be times that we may be asking for help building props, cooking a potluck dish, fitting uniforms, coming in early or staying late to set up an event, etc. Please contact Mr. McMahan or Naomi if you would like to share a specific skill with us or even if you are interested in helping (but don't know where to start)! If you are worried about having the time/transportation to volunteer, no worries: we will find something for you to do even from home!

If volunteering time or effort is a concern for you, I **STRONGLY** suggest that you and other family members come to an event/competition/football game to cheer your child on. Your emotional support of your child is the most important thing in their world (even if they won't admit it).

Fees

\$260 – Basic fee for everyone (this includes music, transportation to competitions, instruction, uniforms, and show shirt)

\$150 – Customized uniform that you will own

\$40 – Color Guard Shoes

\$30 – GBHS Music Windbreaker (required for new students)

\$15 – Pep Band Shirt (required for new students)

See Marching Band Commitment Form for more financial payment information. Please follow the guard fees and the band payment deadlines. Color Guard has separate costs from the band because we need more items (dance shoes, uniform, gloves, etc.)

****ALL CHECKS/MONEY ORDERS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO:
GBHS Band Parents Association, Inc. ****

Fundraising

There are many opportunities to fundraise throughout the entire season. Please stay tuned for the upcoming options for the 2018 Fall Season.

Forms

In order to participate in practices and competitions the forms listed below **MUST** be on file for each member. Please make sure **ALL** forms contain complete and current information.

Required Forms:

1. **General Health/Medical Form**
2. **Guard Membership Agreement**
3. **Marching Band Commitment Form**
4. **Marching Band Apparel Order Form (reminder that guard shoes are \$40)**
5. **Permission to Film/Photograph (to be provided later)**
6. **Trip/Competition Permission Slips (to be provided later)**

Any additional Anne Arundel County Public School forms as needed, such as AACPS Health Form required for permission to dispense medication. Medical/Health and Membership Agreements are due before band camp.

I would like to set the tone of the season emphasizing that this ensemble is a *disciplined* organization. I expect 100% cooperation, participation and determination from every member at all times. This is the only way we will be able achieve our goals as a competitive unit.

Expectations/The Three A's

- **ATTENDANCE:** If you attend rehearsals consistently, you will maximize your potential for improvement and for reaching the goal of being the best that you can possibly be.
 - You must attend all rehearsals (camps), performances and competitions. (unless previously discussed and excused by Naomi Haywood)
 - You must be on time. (This is very important because we only have limited practice time)
- **ATTITUDE:** When your attitude is completely positive and you are eager to learn despite the challenges, you can – and will – achieve all of the goals you set for yourself!
 - You must practice on your own as well as during rehearsals.
 - You must be able to accept constructive criticism.
 - You must believe in what you are doing.
 - You must have faith in each other as well as the guard staff and students.
 - You must discipline yourself to maintain your studies and maintain good grades to remain in this organization.
- **ABILITY:** In the end, your ability is the direct result of the level of your commitment to the above two A's. Your ability improves parallel to your attendance and your attitude.

Being a member of this ensemble involves hard work, dedication and pride. You will have to sacrifice some of your free time with friends and family. However, your fellow marching members will not only become your friends, they will also become your extended family. We will have a lot of fun but you *must* take the ensemble seriously.

Rules for Chrome City Color Guard

Grades:

- You must follow school regulations of the acceptable grade point average for an extracurricular/extracurricular activity (2.0). Members must always be prepared academically. Missing rehearsal to complete homework is not acceptable.

Health/Wellness

- Members must file the appropriate documents for medication. Members are responsible for their own medical supplies if needed, i.e. knee brace.
- If you are taking medications *not* listed on your medical form, please inform a staff member before rehearsal. This is very important in the event that you would need medical attention under our supervision.
- Bring plenty of water (and healthy snacks) to each practice and performance. Please limit your consumption of carbonated drinks like soda and energy drinks.
- No gum chewing at rehearsals.

Attendance:

- Every scheduled practice and performance is mandatory! We plan our rehearsals assuming all members will be in attendance. Birthday parties, work, babysitting, concerts, "I can't make it to rehearsal," or "I don't have a ride" are not acceptable.
- If you need to miss a practice please contact Naomi and your captain **PRIOR** to your absence with a valid reason. Members under the age of 18 must have a parent/guardian contact me via **EMAIL or NOTE 24 hours in advance**.
- *Excessive missed rehearsals or lateness will result in removal from a portion of the show (and in extreme cases removal from the team).*
- Be on the floor, with equipment, and ready to practice **AT** the scheduled practice time. This means that members will need to arrive at the school *15-30 minutes earlier than stated practice time* to be properly prepared.

Practice Attire:

- Practice attire must be worn at all practices (including afterschool practices).
- **MUST** have sneakers or marching shoes at EVERY practice.
- Please adhere to school dress code:
 - Stretchy leggings/shorts and regular tees are acceptable.
 - Baggy sweatpants and oversized shirts are not acceptable.
 - (Since we will be dancing, kicking, and leaping, please wear shorts with a respectable length! I would advise a 5 inch inseam.)
 - No spaghetti strapped shirts, please. Tank-tops with thick straps are acceptable

Attitude/Responsibility:

- Respect yourself, your peers, and your instructors.
 - We strive to create a judge-free zone:
 - Negative comments towards individuals or groups will not be allowed.
 - Cursing/cussing will not be allowed.
 - Please be open to constructive criticism.
 - Come to practice with a positive attitude, be ready to have fun and WORK HARD!
 - You might be asked to spin a piece of equipment you do not want to spin or be asked to do something you do not wish to do. You may be upset by a design choice. It is your duty to respect my creative design of the program and know that I have each members' best interest at heart.
- ❖ Cell phones must be on silent and be put away during rehearsals. Members may check text messages and missed calls during water breaks. Staff members will have their phones on in case of an emergency. If you are expecting a call, please notify the staff before rehearsal.

Equipment/Costumes:

- You are responsible for all of your personal belongings. You are also responsible for all guard equipment and uniform pieces assigned to you.
- You will be required to replace any lost or damaged equipment or uniform pieces (except as a result of normal wear and tear).
- You are not guaranteed to spin any particular piece of equipment. There will be try-outs for specific positions or pieces of equipment.
- All equipment will be returned to Glen Burnie High School at the end of the marching season. If items are not returned, students are held financially responsible.

Competitions:

- All competitions are mandatory. Being late on a competition day is unacceptable.
- Students must travel with the team on the bus to and from the competitions. Students may NOT leave early from an indoor competition.
- There is no eating in uniform. There is no cursing in uniform.
- At-competition rules for parents and students:
 - There is to be limited to no cell phone use during performances.
 - There is no disruptive talking during performances.
 - Speaking poorly of another team will not be tolerated.
 - Members will not leave the campus of the host school during a competition.
 - Weather related cancellations of competitions could result in changing the dates of the weekends following the cancellation. I appreciate your flexibility!
- When we prepare for competitions, all members must assist in loading and unloading the truck and the bus. This means carrying equipment that may not be your own. No one is dismissed at the end of the night until all duties are fulfilled.

MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT

I have read and understand the rules for the outdoor color guard 2018 season. I agree to abide by the rules listed above and understand that there will be consequences if these requirements are not met.

Guard member Signature:

Date:

Parent/Guardian Signature:
