



**THE WOODLANDS  
COLOR GUARD  
STUDENT/PARENT  
HANDBOOK  
2020-2021**

# WELCOME TO THE WOODLANDS HIGH SCHOOL COLOR GUARD!!

On behalf of the Woodlands High School Band and Color Guard and the TWHS Band Booster organization, we extend a warm welcome to all color guard members. We are excited about your participation in TWHS's nationally recognized color guard. This document is to provide you the rules and policies of The Woodlands Color Guard which is a part of the The Woodlands High School Marching Band. The directors reserve the right to edit, enhance or change items in this handbook as required for the benefit and safety of the entire organization.

## What is Color Guard?

Color Guard brings 'visual life and emotion' to music. The Color Guard uses dance, flags, sabers, rifles and props to bring the music of the marching band program to life.

## Facts about music programs and color guard:

-  The college entrance examination board found that students involved in public school music programs scored an average of 107 points higher on the SAT's.
-  Music programs assist in building a child's confidence and self-discipline.
-  It has been proven that early music training dramatically enhances abstract reasoning skills.
-  Students that have participated in fine arts were reported to have the lowest usage, both current and for life, of substances such as drugs, alcohol and tobacco.
-  Music enhances higher brain functions required for math, science, and engineering.
-  Music programs introduce children into a social environment in which they can feel safe.

## Color Guard FAQ's

-  Why should I join color guard?
  - o Support your school! Since the band program is the largest extracurricular activity, it is a very important organization at The Woodlands High School.
  - o Make new friends and build relationships for a lifetime.
  - o Have fun! Not only do you get to go to all football games for free, you will also get to travel with the band to competitions across the state and country. The World winter guard competes across the state and travels to Dayton, Ohio for the WGI World Championships.
  - o It fits in your schedule! All high school students are required to take fine arts and physical education. By participating in guard, you are earning ***both*** of the requirements in the same class.
  - o Become well-rounded! Color guard requires higher level thinking that translates into many other areas. Band and color guard have the highest percentage of honors students in the school.
  - o Colleges LOVE band and guard students. The leadership opportunities in band and color guard are extensive. Counselors are looking for extracurricular activities on college applications. Many colleges offer strong scholarships for band and color guard students.

-  Can a student only participate in one semester?

No. **Students must sign up for both semesters to receive full credit**, to cover the state-mandated "Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for High School Band", and to receive a P.E. credit. Further, all of the concepts introduced and taught

during the fall semester are prerequisites to the information taught in the spring semester. Exceptions for band members wishing to participate in winter guard will be made on a case by case basis. Marching band members wishing to participate in winter season MUST enroll in the guard class.

 What is a typical year like?

Color Guard is a year-long class, but a full four year organization. During the first semester, the guard performs with the marching band. The guard performs at every football game and at marching contests during the fall. During the spring, the guard is a competitive unit in an activity called Winter Guard in the Texas Color Guard Circuit and the Winter Guard International circuit.

 When does the guard practice?

All members are required to participate in summer camps, summer band and all scheduled rehearsals, performances, and competitions. The guard has weekly rehearsals for most of the school year.

The Woodlands Color Guard performs as part of the band during the summer and the fall. There will be a few rehearsals in May to prepare for our summer training. Summer band begins in July at The Woodlands High School. There are daily practices during August through November or the end of football season. TYPICALLY the band rehearses Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, with a few minor changes over the season. There are some Saturday morning stadium rehearsals scheduled during marching season.

During Winter Guard Season, each guard will have two weekly rehearsals. There are some Saturday camps involving designers and choreographers taking place during this time of year. Most winter guard rehearsals will take place at The Woodlands High School ninth grade campus. All competitions are on the weekends.

**All members must be flexible from time to time, There will be occasional changes in the rehearsal schedule due to weather issues or facilities. A change in the schedule does not excuse any student from rehearsal.**

 How can I keep up with the rehearsal and performance schedules?

Members and parents may log into their individual Charms account to keep up with the updated calendar. Charms accounts will be set up for new members at the May open house meeting.

 Where does the color guard rehearse?

There will be both indoor and outdoor rehearsals during football season. Winter season rehearsals and performances take place in gymnasiums. The guard will rehearse at TWHS main and ninth grade campuses.

 Are grades and conduct important?

Yes! CISD's policy on UIL rules apply to band and color guard as well as athletes. No pass no play. Guard members may not fail two six weeks in a row if they wish to remain a member. If a member fails, there is no guarantee that they will have a performance spot in the specific show the guard is working on. All members must come to rehearsal even if they are not eligible to perform. The director will be checking the principal's office for disciplinary actions. Because TWHS guard represents our school, it is important that each member displays responsibility, cooperation and respect for authority at all times.

 Do I have to be at all rehearsals and performances?

ABSOLUTELY. Color Guard is a visual activity and therefore relies on all members to create that visual effect. Attendance is required for the success of the **entire** organization. **The TWHS Band and Guard requires 100% attendance at all rehearsals, events, and performances.** Appointments should be made outside of rehearsal time. Please refer to the calendar for more details. The color guard class is like any other class. It is not to be missed for appointments. **Missing a rehearsal or performance is not to be taken lightly and may result in loss of the performance position, failing grades, or loss of membership.**

 Is there a Booster Club for color guard?

Yes. It is recommended that families join and participate in our TWHS Band Booster Club. This is an organization that raises money for the band and color guard.

## HANDBOOK PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to set uniform guidelines and policies that focus on the proper implementation of membership requirements, tryouts, performance expectations, attendance, and general rules. The color guard member must abide by all guidelines and policies outlined in the membership Handbook and The Woodlands High School Student Handbook.

### Philosophy / Purpose

Being a TWHS Guard Member is an honor and special privilege. The color guard exists first and foremost to represent The Woodlands High School. The guard also exists to promote good sportsmanship, good citizenship, represent our school as an athletic and competitive fine arts unit.

Members should exemplify both individual and group behavior suitable to their position and accordance with the rules stated in the Guard Handbook and TWHS High School and CISD Codes of Conduct.

Members of this group have a fundamental responsibility to play a leadership role in building teamwork and helping the school achieve its goals and objectives. Because of these responsibilities, members are expected to maintain a higher standard of behavior and academic achievement than that of their peers.

## OBJECTIVES

Members are expected to be physically and mentally skilled in learning and memorizing exercises and choreography with accuracy and technique at the standards set by the directors. They are also expected to be able to publicly demonstrate a skill level suitable for the team position and the timing necessary for group performance. Off the field, they are to enthusiastically support all TWHS organizations through support, personal attitude and attendance at required events.

## MEMBERSHIP

-  Prospective members must attend a mandatory tryout clinic and participate in the scheduled auditions before qualified judges.
-  Members are expected to give their time to participate in required activities throughout the year. These activities include rehearsals, performances, parades, pep rallies, fundraisers, and other public events.
-  All members must have a physical turned in by August 1.
-  Members should use discretion in their commitments to multiple extracurricular activities.
-  Members must attend May rehearsals, June camp, and summer band. Vacation conflicts will be considered on a case by case basis. Members missing Spring and Summer rehearsals will be required to give extra time to catch up on training and information they miss, and missing members may perform less of a role in the fall marching show.
-  Members and their parents shall be aware of the responsibilities and the expenses of the organization.
-  **Membership for The Woodlands High School Color Guard begins immediately upon notification of acceptance.**
-  Members understand that when a director is not in the room, officers and chaperones have full authority.
-  Members must adhere to all guidelines and policies in this handbook. Parents are expected to support the member in complying with all guidelines and policies of the school and the organization.
-  Members understand that our appearance and behavior is important in both rehearsal and on the performance floor, as well as on a daily basis and outside of rehearsal. Please see daily dress requirements for details.

## ORGANIZATION

- Memberships consists of ninth through twelfth grade students.
- Members specialize in color guard as an art form and sport. These may include all forms of equipment, prop and dance choreography.
- Members develop qualities of leadership, organizational skills, proper conduct, and how to be a team player.
- Members will be split into two or more winter guard groups each November based on skill, maturity, and performance requirements.

### Varsity and Junior Varsity Color Guards

TWHS Color Guard performs as one unit during the marching season and competes in two or maybe even three units during winter guard season. There will be auditions at the end of football season for the Varsity (World class) and JV guards (A class). All things are taken into consideration...equipment skills, movement skills, grades, attitude, attendance, commitment level, and over-all participation level. **The decision is at the sole discretion of the directors. The director's decisions are final.**

### **Rehearsal, Performance, and Attendance Guidelines**

- During football season, the guard will follow the same rehearsal schedule as the band. Please understand that rehearsal times may be altered slightly to accommodate weather issues and possible stadium rehearsals. **Flexibility is required.**
- During the rest of the year, the color guard will have a separate rehearsal schedule. That schedule will be dependent upon gym availability, contest schedule and other various activities. *Rehearsals begin when the last person arrives and is ready to rehearse.*
- Because color guard is co-curricular, all students are required to attend and participate in all after school rehearsals to receive credit. **Failure to attend rehearsals and performances will result in a zero.**
- Absences will only be excused due to illness with a doctor's note. Any unexcused absence will result in a zero and reduced performance role except for the case of extreme emergency (hospital visit, death in the family, etc.). In this case, the student will be allowed to make up the time missed at rehearsal to earn credit for that assignment. An appropriate amount of time to make up missed rehearsals will be determined by the directors.
- Any missed rehearsal time, regardless of excuse, is a safety issue for the entire group.** Rehearsal time must be made up to maintain a performance role in the TWHS Guard productions.
- If a member is absent or tardy to a rehearsal, performance or work session, the member is held responsible for all announcements and information given during the missed activity. The directors will not be responsible for getting information to each individual member that is not in class or at rehearsal on time.
- Dressing out appropriately is part of each member's daily participation grade. Members must wear form-fitting dance/athletic clothing. Spandex must be worn under ALL shorts. Athletic running shoes or sneakers are to be worn at all marching season rehearsals. Knee pads are encouraged at some rehearsals. Slip-ons and chucks are a safety issue and are not to be worn. Additionally, each member's hair must be pulled back in to a pony tail or

braided and should not be messed with during rehearsal. **Jewelry is a safety hazard. Oversized earrings, necklaces, and fake nails may cause injuries and are not permitted during rehearsals or performances.**

- 📁 Members must come prepared to all marching rehearsals in dress code with the following items:
  - o dot book and pencil
  - o properly taped equipment
  - o gallon water bottle
- 📁 Individual Practice is required for each member to learn the skills required for any given show. REHEARSALS AND INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS. PRACTICE TAKES PLACE ON ONE'S OWN. REHEARSAL TAKES PLACE IN THE GROUP SETTING.
- 📁 All rehearsals are closed to parents, family, friends, and guests until the final 20 minutes, unless specific permission is given by the directors. Please allow your child approximately fifteen minutes after the posted ending time of rehearsal to pick up your child.
- 📁 Rehearsals are scheduled to allow for tutoring. Mornings are recommended for days with after school rehearsal. Students needing to be late to rehearsal for tutoring must request permission **BEFORE REHEARSAL BEGINS**.
- 📁 MEMBERS MAY NOT MISS REHEARSAL TO STUDY/CATCH UP ON HOMEWORK.

## Performances and Attendance Rules

Performances are an important part of the program. ALL REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES ARE EQUALLY IMPORTANT. There is always the possibility of play-off games during football season that will require the color guard to rehearse both football routines and winter season's competitive programs. TWHS Guard prepares the majority of our winter competition season's programming on weekend/holiday 'camp' type of rehearsals. These may include the conclusion of the Thanksgiving holidays as well as the beginning or end of the Christmas holidays. It is also customary for us to have competitions the weekend spring break begins OR ends.

Performance Rules are not limited to, but will include the following: (directors reserve the right to create rules as needed for the safety, consistency and presentation of the organization.)

- 📁 A member must be present at **ALL REHEARSALS** in order to perform.
- 📁 Loss of a performance position may a result of: attendance, failure of daily or performance inspections, lack of memory of show, lack of technique of skills required, lack of projection, flexibility, coordination, strength and endurance. All members will work hard to progress and maintain their role in the show. **No member is entitled to perform.**
- 📁 The director makes the final decision on who will perform for any given performance. The director's decision is final.
- 📁 Before each performance, the guard will go through an inspection of all costumes, packing and equipment prior to departure. Failure to be prepared will result in conditioning or loss of performance opportunities at the discretion of the directors.
- 📁 **Students and parents should not ask to miss any type of rehearsal or performance. Missing a performance will not be allowed and a skipped performance may set up your student for dismissal from the organization.**

## **TWHS COLOR GUARD SUMMER CAMPS**

The TWHS color guard may hold summer camps in June or July to further prepare for the upcoming season. Camps will be held at the TWHS Campus. A camp clinician fee may be associated with these camps. Camp is required and part of the education and evaluation process of each student. If a student is allowed to miss color guard summer camp, (advance permission is required), the student will be significantly behind the rest of the organization and may not be eligible for a full performance spot during marching season.

## **SUMMER BAND**

The TWHS Band and Color Guard hold rehearsals each summer before the beginning of the fall semester. The purpose of the rehearsals is to allow the band to adequately prepare for the upcoming marching season. This is also an important time for the students to meet and greet each other. In a group as large as the TWHS Band and Color Guard, students need to have time to establish bonds of friendship and a strong work ethic. Students build a true “esprit de corps” during summer rehearsals. This relationship with each other and the group as a whole makes summer band the most important time of the year for the whole organization. No grades are assigned during summer band; however, these rehearsals are required to continue membership in TWHS Band and Color Guard; attendance is checked and marching positions in the contest/competition show are assigned based on attendance, work habits and development of skills taught during the summer rehearsals. Students who miss all or part of summer band are immediately behind the rest of the group, and may fight the rest of the season just to “catch up” instead of striving to excel. Parents wishing to see their child excel in TWHS Band and Color Guard organization should make travel and vacation plans with this schedule in mind. Generally, summer band begins at the end of July or beginning of August, regardless of the date for the beginning of the CISD school year. Summer band will conclude with a parent preview performance and dinner the Friday before or after school starts. Check charms and [www.twhsband.org](http://www.twhsband.org) for updates and changes to the schedules.

## **TWHS COLOR GUARD CLASS**

Color guard is a mandatory class period for all members. It is held daily during the last class period. Members must come to class prepared and ready to dress out each day. Class is an integral part of the success of the TWHS color guard, and must be treated as an important rehearsal each day.

Ninth grade students will be bussed over for class from the ninth grade campus. They will meet in the ninth grade band hall for the first few days of school. On non-practice days, students may be picked up or ride the bus from the senior campus when school is released at 2:35 p.m.

## **PASS-OFFS**

Pass-offs are the color guard equivalent to proficiency tests. Each member will be expected to pass-off skill sets, technique exercises, and choreography. While there will be no grade given for pass-offs, failure to perform proficiently may result in a reduction of performance role.

## FOOTBALL GAMES

- 📖 The group will have a one-hour rehearsal of the halftime performance right after school. The band and guard will be performing a portion of their competition show each VARSITY football game.
- 📖 After rehearsal, members will load their equipment and have the rest of the time to eat and dress before departure.
- 📖 Parents may bring food to the senior campus following the conclusion of rehearsal. **Feed the Band will also organize a dinner delivery option** to be ordered and paid for prior to the show day.
- 📖 Members may not leave the campus between rehearsal and game departure.
- 📖 Students must eat before arrival at the game. Members may not buy or be brought concessions at the game. They may bring their water jugs, and a light snack and drink will be provided after the halftime performance.
- 📖 Members must be dressed in warm-ups prior to arrival. Hair and makeup may done on the bus, time permitting. Officers will do a physical inspection before unloading the bus.
- 📖 Football games typically begin around 7:00 or 7:30. The band will leave shortly after the game ends. Departure and arrival times for all games will be given to students when itineraries are made.
- 📖 Guard students MAY NOT drive themselves to home games. All members must ride the bus.
- 📖 Home games are played at Woodforest Stadium. Away games can be close or 2+ hours away. Some may require charter buses. Because it is impossible to predict how long games will last, return times are only an estimate. A remind message will be sent once the band is loaded and on the way back to the main campus. Members are expected to help with the unloading process when they return to the school.

**Stands Etiquette** – The TWHS Band and Color Guard are there to support the school and football team. The color guard will sit in an area/seating pattern that will look nice and organized from all areas of the stadium. Being in the stands is a form of performance in itself. Members are to stay in their seats.

- 📖 When the band plays the fight song, the color guard stands and supports the school each and every time the song is played.
- 📖 Cheering the team on should be done with dignity and pride. Members want to make sure their cheers are heard, but not interpreted as rude or unruly.
- 📖 When an officer or director asks the team to sit and be quite, it must be done immediately.
- 📖 If an injury occurs to a player, the color guard will stand silently with hands behind the back until the player is removed from the field. This shows respect and pride.
- 📖 Everyone will stand silently for the Star Spangled Banner.
- 📖 Members will not be going in and out of the stands. Once in the stands, members will be there to stay for the duration of the game. No guard member is to go to the restroom alone. A chaperone or squad leader must escort members at all times when not in the stands or with the rest of the group.
- 📖 **There will be absolutely no eating or leaving the stands to get concessions.** A post-performance snack and water will be provided at each game.
- 📖 The color guard will go down to warm up during the first quarter of every game. Members may be required to spin during the third quarter if expectations are not met during the performance.

*PARENT NOTE: While with the guard at games, performances and competition, your child is there to be part of the team. Visits from parents in the stands, on the buses, etc. are prohibited. If an emergency message needs to get to your student, then do this through the directors. There will be appropriate times for parent visits at many of our events, but not all of them. You and your student will be advised in advance of these opportunities. Please do not put your student in an uncomfortable situation by approaching them when they know you should not. Furthermore, public events and competitions are NOT the time to have a private discussion with any director*

## MARCHING CONTESTS

- There will be a rehearsal before each competition. The time and duration of this rehearsal will vary from contest to contest. This may also alter the weekly schedule to accommodate the time needed to prepare for a large competition. Itineraries for each contest will be given out as soon as they are available.
- Competitions are all day events. Expect members to be busy from early morning to midnight or later for some shows. Members may not come and go during events.
- There will be one UIL marching event that takes place during the week. All Bands of America events have preliminary and finals events.
- Contest sites are generally in Houston and San Antonio during non-travel years. Every other year, the band and guard will compete at Grand Nationals in Indianapolis.

## WINTER GUARD COMPETITIONS

- There will be a rehearsal before each competition. After rehearsal, the guard will load their floor, props, and equipment on their trailer and get ready for the performance at the school. Members may not leave campus during this time.
- Members are responsible for meals before departure to the competition (breakfast or lunch). A meal fee will be included in winter guard dues for long competition days.
- Competitions are all day events. Expect the team to be busy from early morning to late evening.
- Both guards will compete at some competitions, while some will be only one guard or the other. A complete calendar of competitions will be finalized in August.
- Both guards will compete locally in the Texas Color Guard Circuit and nationally through Winter Guard International.
- Contests sites vary all over the Houston, Austin, Dallas, and San Antonio areas.
- The World Guard will attend Winter Guard International World Championships in Dayton, Ohio on alternating years.

### Packing List for Performances (Example list only)

This list is a guide for members to pack their materials for all performances. Items will be added and deleted from the list as required by the event. Below are staple items. A specific list will be handed out prior to the first show.

Band Aids  
Bobby Pins that match your hair (not barrettes)  
Warm ups  
Feminine products as needed  
Hair Products  
Hand Sanitizer  
Handy wipes  
Jazz shoes  
Make Up and Eye Lashes  
Pony Tail Bands

Q-tips  
Safety Pins  
Show Shirts  
Small Mirror  
Spanx  
Appropriate under garments for all costumes  
Guard shirt  
Other items as outlined on weekly schedule  
Black and white tape  
Show Make-up

## Equipment Responsibilities

Color guard equipment (flags, sabers, rifles, props, floor, etc.) as well as other equipment (costumes, carts, electronics, etc.) is to be well-maintained. Members agree to:

-  Roll flags when not using them and placing gently them on the floor.
-  Keep equipment properly taped using the correct color.
-  **Not allow anyone not in color guard to use or handle any equipment.**
-  Repair equipment as needed. All equipment repairs should be done **before or after** rehearsal. Do not put it off. **POORLY TAPED EQUIPMENT IS A SAFETY ISSUE.**
-  **Take responsibility for any equipment taken off campus. All equipment is needed for all classes, rehearsals, performances and competitions.**

## ELIGIBILITY – NO PASS, NO PLAY

-  All band and guard members must pass every class (subject) in order to be eligible for extra-curricular activities. This includes all football games, music contests, and performances that are of a competitive nature. If a member fails one (1) subject (below 70) he/she is ineligible for the following three weeks reporting period. (See CISD policy below for exempt classes.) This causes frustration, disappointment, and tends to lead toward discouragement in other areas. **Please keep a close check on all grades and strive to maintain a good academic standing in all subject areas.** Students must be passing all classes at the end of the next three weeks to regain eligibility.
-  Activities not affected by eligibility rule include sectionals, rehearsals, and public performances not related to competitive events. **ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY AT THESE ACTIVITIES!**
-  A guard member wishing to audition for color guard officer must have been eligible each grading period for the entire school year prior to their audition.
-  If a student becomes ineligible during a period of a trip/competition, the parents understand that they responsible for all fees to be paid in full. Grades, registration for the next school year and/or diploma will be held until the balance is paid in full. No exceptions.

## GRADE OF INCOMPLETE

A student with an “Incomplete” grade at the end of a grading period is ineligible at the end of the seven-day grace period unless the “Incomplete” was replaced with a passing grade prior to the end of the seven day grace period.

## S.A.T. / A.C.T. TESTING

The SAT and ACT College entrance exams are critical portions of a high school student’s academic regiment. Much research has been done that proves students studying music are much more successful at these exams than students not studying music. The testing agencies that administer these exams set the dates these tests will be given at least a year in advance and publicize these dates to allow students to plan. The band and color guard directors of The Woodlands High School understand the importance of these tests and encourage students to take these exams. The directors plan rehearsals and performances throughout the school year to allow students to take these exams at least twice in the year

without a conflict. It is the responsibility of the student and parent to make sure to sign up for these exams only on the days that have no scheduled event.

## CONDUCT GUIDELINES

### GOALS AND EXPECTATIONS

The goal of The Woodlands Color Guard is to achieve excellence in performance while maintaining the highest level of integrity. In order to reach this goal, students are expected to show strong character and disciplined habits during class, rehearsals, performances, all trips off campus, during free time in the Band Hall, and any time while representing the Band and TWHS. Pride, self-discipline, teamwork, and respect are the foundation of every great organization.

### CONDUCT GUIDELINES FOR COLOR GUARD MEMBERS

Note: Parents are expected to be aware of these guidelines and help reinforce them at all times.

-  Students will follow all rules and policies stated in the CISD Student Handbook and Code of Conduct, as well as in the TWHS High School Student Handbook.
-  Students will show respect for:
  - o All fellow students and officers
  - o Directors and staff
  - o Any chaperones and volunteers.
  - o Contest staff and administrators
  - o Any hotel or restaurant staff and patrons
  - o All property of The Woodlands High School Band and Color Guard, as well as that of fellow students.
-  Students will follow instructions from directors, student leaders, and designated band chaperones.
  - o Instructions will be followed the FIRST time they are given.
  - o Students will not disrupt instruction at any time.
-  Students will be on time (15 minutes early!) for all rehearsals, performances, and activities.
-  Students will have appropriate equipment, attire and supplies at all times.
-  Students will be prepared to contribute to rehearsals and performances by fulfilling individual practice obligations and working to improve their skills.
-  Students will have a willing and positive attitude.
-  Students will use appropriate language at all times.
-  Students will refrain from inappropriate public displays of affection.
-  Students will not lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate anyone who does.
-  Students will not eat or drink in the Band Hall. Food, drink, and gum are not allowed in any rehearsal or performance area.
-  Students will follow all bus riding rules and travel policies set forth by Conroe ISD, as well as TWHS Band and Color Guard.
-  All students are expected to conduct themselves properly in public at all times. Display of profanity, temper, flagrant violation of rules, etc. will not be tolerated. Individual behavior during a band function is a reflection of the group.
-  Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area ready to work at the set rehearsal time.
-  Students will wear appropriate, school approved clothing at all times. Rehearsal dress code will be followed at all times.

- 📌 Students should ask for permission to speak by raising their hand and waiting to be acknowledged. All rehearsals are expected to be **silent** so everyone's time will be utilized wisely. Members will ask for permission if they need to leave the block or rehearsal space.
- 📌 When allowed in the band hall, either before or after school, students will not disturb any rehearsal in progress.
- 📌 Students should keep their equipment in the designated storage area, and keep said storage area clean and neat in appearance. Students who demonstrate great difficulty with this may lose the privilege of having a storage area in the band hall.
- 📌 Students will utilize their assigned storage slot / locker for personal items/guard bags during rehearsals.

### POSSIBLE MEMBERSHIP INFRACTIONS

<b>Attendance and Tardies</b>	<b>Consequence</b>
Unexcused absence from performance	Immediate loss of membership
Unexcused absence from rehearsal	First offense - probation Second offense - loss of performance spot Third offense - loss of membership
Tardy to game, run through, roll call, or trip <b>without</b> director notification	Squad and full guard Physical Conditioning
Tardy to game, run through, roll call, or trip <b>with</b> director notification	Individual Physical Conditioning
Tardy to rehearsal for any reason not excused at director's discretion	Physical conditioning, loss of membership
<b>Dress Out, Costumes</b>	
Failure to wear proper uniform or uniform undergarments	No performance, physical conditioning
Chewing gum, eating, drinking, nail polish, jewelry in costume	Physical Conditioning
Failure to pass performance inspection	Physical Conditioning
Failure to pass equipment inspection	Physical Conditioning
Incorrect dress for stadium rehearsals to include clothing, hair and jewelry	Physical Conditioning
<b>Conduct</b>	
Public displays of affection	Probation, Parent Meeting, loss of membership
Unsportsmanlike conduct	Probation, loss of membership
Profanity in public	Physical conditioning, loss of membership

Letting a non-member in the band hall/rehearsal facility without director approval	Physical Conditioning
Failure to keep clean the following areas: guard room, dressing areas, performance areas, gyms, dance room, locker rooms, etc.	Physical Conditioning, loss of privilege/ use of area
<b>Insubordination</b>	
Talking back to an officer or Director	Physical Conditioning, Parent Meeting, Loss of performance spot, loss of membership
Failure to obey commands/ follow instructions	Physical Conditioning - full guard
Leaving practice early for any reason without permission	Physical conditioning, loss of performance spot
Skipping a rehearsal	Loss of Membership - ZERO tolerance
Talking or moving while set	Physical Conditioning
Talking during rehearsals when asked not to speak	Physical Conditioning
Talking to non members during a rehearsal	Physical Conditioning
Failure to respect any teacher, administrator or CISD staff member	Parent Meeting, Loss of performance spot, loss of membership
<b>Other</b>	
<b>Use of cell phone, ipod or other electronics when not permitted</b>	Removal of item

### Physical Conditioning

Physical conditioning may consist of any of the following assignments:

- ✘ Stair runs
- ✘ 2-3 laps around football field or 4-8 laps around gym floor
- ✘ 2-4 passes of lunges
- ✘ Plank holds
- ✘ 500 spins

Members that fail to take care of their conditioning after practice work off double the amount the following day. Officers that fail to have a member work off their conditioning will condition with that member.

## SEVERE INFRACTIONS

Students who demonstrate severe violations of the guidelines as stated above will be subject to discipline by the administration of The Woodlands High School. Punishment may include permanent removal from the TWHS Band and Color Guard program.

### Dismissal from TWHS Color Guard

These offenses may result in forfeiture of membership in TWHS Color Guard. All decisions are by the directors and are final. Guard members are leaders and role models in CISD and must choose to behave accordingly.

-  Member who has been suspended or received an ISS or ALA assignment will forfeit membership. (Exception: a student may serve a one-day assignment for dress code or tardies...only one opportunity given each year).
-  Member who becomes ineligible twice during a school year.
-  Student found possessing, using, transmitting or to be under the influence of drugs, alcohol, etc while at school, in costume or member wardrobe, while representing the organization.
-  Smoking tobacco in any member clothing or while representing TWHS.
-  Excessive absences
-  Any member that receives an MIP, DUI, DWI, or other drug or alcohol related offense will automatically forfeit their membership.
-  Theft of team or individual property.
-  Hazing or initiation of any student by another student.
-  Members who assault or harass directors or team members
-  Members involved in creating, leading, or participating in an initiation process
-  Any student unable to meet the physical requirements will not be allowed to participate as a team member and will automatically forfeit their position on the team
-  Any offense not covered in this handbook, but which is clearly and logically an offense shall be declared appropriate for dismissal by the directors.

## EXPENSES TO EXPECT/ITEMS REQUIRED

As with all extra-curricular activities, there will be expenses incurred with The Woodlands High School Color Guard and Band. There are a number of items that students/parents will be expected to provide for successful participation in the color guard. Most of the items to be purchased will be ordered on or before the end of June. New members are required to purchase all personal items the first year. There is no need to “repurchase” any of these items unless they need replacement. Returning members must have all items listed. If they have lost or damaged an item, a new one needs to be ordered. Returning members may order additional items if they would like more than one of any item. This will not include basic essentials for traveling to shows, personal monies for trips, etc. The following are some of the EXPECTED expenses for the school year.

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>USE/DESCRIPTION - ORDERED THROUGH TWHS COLOR GUARD</b>	<b>APPROXIMATE AMOUNT Includes shipping/Tax</b>
Jazz Shoes	Used during marching season - may also be purchased at any dance store or Academy	\$30.00
Rifle	All members will be trained on rifle. Only white 36” Elite style will be permitted.	\$40-50
Gloves	One Pair. Extras may be ordered	\$16.00
Black Guard Bag	Official bag used all year	\$40.00
Show Shirts	One for marching season and one for winter season	\$30.00
Red Guard Spirit Tee	Used for game days and travel	\$15.00
Warm ups	Custom Designed logo jacket and pants	\$80.00
<b>ADDITIONAL ITEMS</b>	<b>PURCHASED ON YOUR OWN</b>	
Tennis Shoes	Athletic or running shoes are required for all marching season classes and rehearsals. Keds, vans, Toms, and other forms of slip-ons will not be permitted for safety reasons.	Two pairs are recommended.
Stadium rehearsal attire	All members should own a black fitted shirt or tank top, black shorts and black leggings or thick tights to be worn at designated rehearsals throughout the year. None of the above items should have any logo or markings.	Varies
Undergarments	Members will need: Control Top Spanx – natural color, to be worn under all costumes (regular and halter), (No BLACK or WHITE or COLORED).  Seamless Underwear and bra - some uniforms may require strapless or clear strapped styles	Spanx.com Target Wal-Mart (approx. \$18)

Body Tight	Used all year under uniforms	\$20.00
Garment bag	Needed to transport uniform	\$15-20
Water Jug	Each student will need a <b>1-gallon</b> water cooler to drink from at rehearsals. There is NO SHARING of containers for health reasons	Walmart, Target, Academy, etc.
Bag Supply Items	You will receive a specific list of items that need to be in your guard bag each week.	Attached List
Show make-up	Each season will have designated show make-up to be purchased on your own or through Mary Kay	Varies
<b>Fee Items, Trips</b>	<b>Use/Description</b>	<b>APPROXIMATE AMOUNT</b>
Uniform Fee	Per season. Required for all members. Payment date set by directors during summer to ensure delivery for performances	\$150-\$200
Color Guard and Band Marching Fees	Covers membership and in-state travel fees for TWHS Marching season	Amount to be paid monthly beginning in July-August Approx. \$1000 during a non-travel season Approx. \$1800 during a travel season
Winter Guard Fees	Covers membership and travel fees for TWHS Winter Guard Season	Amount to be paid monthly beginning in December A guard fees approx \$350-\$500 World guard fees approx \$600-800 during non travel year, \$1800-1900 during a Dayton year
<b>Indianapolis Trip fees</b>	<b>This is Bands of America National Championships in Indianapolis in November (non-state years)</b>	<b>Varies - included in marching fee amount if travel year</b>
<b>WGI Trip**</b>	<b>This is a world championship in Dayton, Ohio. **TWHS World Winter Guard usually goes every OTHER year to Dayton, Ohio.</b>	<b>Varies - included in winter guard fees if applicable</b>

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT

### Fundraising

Parents have many options available to raise money for their child's fees. Start fundraising early! Attend booster meetings for up to date information on fundraisers.

-  Work at the concession stands at the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion. The concession season runs March-November.
-  Use a Kroger card. A percentage of the money used on these cards go directly to your child's fees.
-  Participate in the Rock-a-thon fundraiser in August

### Chaperoning

The TWHS Band and Guard takes 5-11 buses on all marching season trips and 1-2 buses for all winter guard season trips. Multiple chaperones are required for each bus to ensure the safety and smooth sailing for all games, events, and competitions. **This is a great and easy way to be involved during both seasons!**

### Feed the Band and Travel

Feed the Band is a convenient way to ensure your band or guard student has dinner before football games. The travel chair provides this service to all students and chaperones through the use of a pre-game order form.

-  The travel chair is in need of parents who are able to help with distribution.
-  There will also be opportunities to donate pizza, drinks, and snacks for competitions. **All parents must donate items for at least one competition per season (both marching and winter).**
-  Look for emails from our secretary and guard liaison when help is needed.

### TWHS PIT CREW

This task force is responsible for loading, unloading, and staging band equipment at football games and competitions. It also meets to help with prop construction for **marching and winter guard shows**. No experience needed!



**HANDBOOK, POLICY, and FINANCIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**  
**(sign electronically during open house)**

Parents and/or guardians are to initial each statement below

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read the entire TWHS Color Guard Student/Parent Handbook and I am responsible for being aware of all of its contents. I have read and understand the Rehearsal and Attendance Expectations, Conduct Guidelines, and Eligibility requirements.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that the directors enforce the rules, regulations, policy and procedures listed in this handbook for the betterment, safety, growth, and needs of the entire organization. I understand that the decisions of the directors are final.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that if my child has the privilege of being a TWHS Color Guard Member, they are committed to the fees required for participation. (marching and winter fees, personal items fees, trip fees, WGI trip fees, etc.)

Please initial above and sign below.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## BAND and COLOR GUARD PARENT “DO’S” AND “DON’TS”

### According to a band and color guard parents

<b><u>DO</u></b>	Bring or make sure your student is <b>early to rehearsals</b> - - not just on time. To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late.	<b><u>DON'T</u></b>	Cause your student to do push-ups for being late unless you believe that they need the added exercise.
<b><u>DO</u></b>	Come early to watch a marching rehearsal	<b><u>DON'T</u></b>	Miss out on knowing that hard work lies beneath a winning performance.
<b><u>DO</u></b>	Interact with other parents - - find out what grade their child is in.... what instrument he or she plays....	<b><u>DON'T</u></b>	Stay to yourself and later complain that there are too many parent <b><u>cliques</u></b> .
<b><u>DO</u></b>	Attend Band Booster Meetings - - yes, there are meetings outside of marching season, and <b>check the band website for changes</b> .	<b><u>DON'T</u></b>	<u>Assume</u> that your student is going to remember to tell you everything that is going on, or <u>assume</u> that someone in the communications committee is going to call or e-mail you to give you the highlights of the meeting.
<b><u>DO</u></b>	Wear your band booster shirt – or school colors - - to the football games or competitions or other events where the band is appearing	<b><u>DON'T</u></b>	Wear blue, purple, or PINK, colors - - ESPECIALLY when we are competing against them!!
<b><u>DO</u></b>	Come to the football games and find the other band parents and sit in the stadium with them.	<b><u>DON'T</u></b>	Stay at home watching 20/20 or Dateline on Friday nights. Set your DVR!
<b><u>DO</u></b>	Support the organization at all football games and performances	<b><u>DON'T</u></b>	Approach the kids or staff while they are working/ performing.
<b><u>DO</u></b>	Volunteer for Band events, committees, fund-raisers, etc.	<b><u>DON'T</u></b>	Let a few carry the load. The more the merrier and the quicker the job.
<b><u>DO</u></b>	Holler and yell for the football team at games	<b><u>DON'T</u></b>	Sit quietly and frown at the fools hollering and yelling their heads off!
<b><u>DO</u></b>	Find out where your student is going after the football games. Get a group of parents together – go to the same place. Make an after-the-game wind-down part of your fun	<b><u>DON'T</u></b>	Go home and worry about where your student is and what time they will be home that night.
<b><u>DO</u></b>	Come and support your student and band directors at marching competitions	<b><u>DON'T</u></b>	Assume that the kids aren't nervous and don't need any moral support. They do! – in spite of what they might say.
<b><u>DO</u></b>	Stand up, yell and holler when the <b>TWHS BAND</b> is introduced	<b><u>DON'T</u></b>	Be embarrassed to show pride in your child's school and band, and what he or she is doing.
<b><u>DO</u></b>	Applaud politely for the other bands and give opinions when back on your own turf.	<b><u>DON'T</u></b>	Boo and hiss and make snide remarks. Chances are another band parent is within hearing distance!!
<b><u>DO</u></b>	Pick up your student <b>on time</b> after rehearsals, games, competitions etc.	<b><u>DON'T</u></b>	Expect the Band Directors to stay any later than necessary – remember they've had a long day too and want to go home also.
<b><u>DO</u></b>	Ask your student to perform their equipment work for you	<b><u>DON'T</u></b>	Assume that the guard looks as good as it does just by practicing at school.
<b><u>DO</u></b>	Submit to the Band website your pictures, ideas and video.	<b><u>DON'T</u></b>	Be shy. We do not want any student to be upset if they are inadvertently left off of the website.

<b><u>DO</u></b>	Treat the other parents and all of the students as family – because that is what we are - - a Band Family.	<b><u>DON'T</u></b>	Miss out. Participate in all of our functions – games, concerts, contests, fund raisers, and social events !! <b>REMEMBER we are here for our kids and band and not to glorify ourselves.</b>
<b><u>DO</u></b>	Applaud for the color guard when they release and catch their equipment.	<b><u>DON'T</u></b>	Just sit there in amazement...let the team hear you!