



**William Byrd High School
Color Guard Handbook**

Est. 2018

Our Mission

Each year, the WBHS marching band presents a unique show that is performed by student musicians. Our shows involve educationally sound music, engaging drill design, visually artistic movements, uniforms, and field props. The WBHS color guard consists of students that enhance our marching show by utilizing dance, flags, rifles, and props. This is a dynamic and vital group that joins the elements of music performance, marching, and theater.

Membership

Membership in the color guard is obtained through an audition process which challenges students with basic, intermediate, and advanced performance exercises and warm-ups particular to the WBHS color guard. Auditions take place every year to ensure the highest quality of performers in the group. The Band Director and the Color Guard Instructor / Staff will use the auditions to choose students best fitted for the activity. *Leadership, attendance, performance,* and *maturity* are ALL factored into the selection process.

Rehearsal Expectations

Members must have all materials needed for a successful rehearsal. These include all color guard equipment such as flags, rifles, tennis shoes, and mind ready to rehearse! The expectation is that ALL guard work must be prepared for that particular rehearsal. It should go without saying that students should always strive to practice individually before the rehearsal. This discipline within the student will produce an excellent performer!

Every effort must be made to maximize the amount of quality and on-task rehearsal time within each rehearsal. Rehearsal must be completely free of excess noise, talking, or disruptive behavior of any sort. Our work ethic is essential to our success as a traveling and performing band. Each performer is responsible for learning their individual work in order to create success for the color guard as a whole.

Attendance Policy

Members are required to attend **ALL** rehearsals and performances. We understand that life sometimes gets in the way and conflicts do arise, but the key to minimizing any confusion or frustration about attendance is clear communication! Members are responsible for notifying both the Band Director, Color Guard Instructor, and Color Guard Captain of missing any rehearsals or performances well ahead of the event. Consult the WBHS band handbook for further information on attendance and tardiness.

Students that miss three or more hours of weekly instructional time will not be allowed to attend the following football game and or competition.

General Rules

- Rehearsal attire should adhere to William Byrd High School dress code guidelines unless otherwise specified. For summer rehearsals you may wear racer back and one inch tank tops as long as no bra straps or midriffs are showing. Sports bras are recommended.
- Wear clothing that will not restrict your ability to move.
- Clothing should be form fitting enough to aid in the instruction of movement principles. Baggy clothing hinders the instruction of proper posture and shoulder alignment.
- Pants should never drag on the ground. This limits the view of the feet and can be a safety hazard.
- Hair must be secured away from the face. It is strongly encouraged to keep your hair styles and colors natural.
- Keep fingernails at a length that will not impede your ability to manipulate equipment.
- No jewelry is to be worn during rehearsals or performances. One exception is wearing stud earrings during rehearsals is fine but nothing that dangles. During a performance **ALL** jewelry should be removed.
- No chewing gum during rehearsals or performances.

- Clothing must also completely cover the entire midriff and lower back while moving.

Performance Specific Policy

- Hair and make-up designs will be determined by the director and instructor. Instructions and supply list will be distributed later in the season. Undergarment requirements will be based on the needs of the uniform and set by the director and instructor. If you need assistance in choosing or obtaining appropriate undergarments, please contact the guard instructor and/or captain.
- Nail polish must be removed for performances.
- While in competition uniform, do not eat or drink anything other than water.
- Remember that while in uniform you are representing William Byrd High School. Your behavior will be a reflection of the program. Any inappropriate behaviors, actions, or language that could jeopardize the reputation of yourself or the program will not be tolerated.

Equipment Policy

Equipment, props, and uniforms account for the large expense. As costs of equipment continue to rise, we can keep our program cost down by taking care of our equipment. The following policies are intended to ensure that our equipment is well maintained.

- Every piece of equipment that is assigned is the property of William Byrd High School and is to be treated as such. Students will be held liable for the replacement of equipment that is lost, stolen, or damaged beyond reasonable wear and use.
- Any returning members that currently have equipment in their possession must return all outstanding items to the school to be inventoried and redistributed. When equipment is returned you will sign off on an inventory list. At that point you will be responsible for its maintenance and care. The cost of unreturned or severely damaged equipment must be paid for by the student/parent/guardian. The following are current estimates of the cost of equipment.
 - Flags = \$20 - \$40
 - Rifles = \$30 - \$50
- Show flags will not be signed out to practice with. Show flags will remain in flag bags for use only at designated rehearsals and all performances. Individuals will be assigned the

duty of collecting and loading all guard equipment for performances, but it is the color guards responsibility to ensure their overall care and safety.

- Equipment is always to be stored carefully and neatly. Flags should be rolled neatly after every use. If flags are wet, let them dry before rolling them. Uniforms are to be handled with the utmost care. Your uniform will be stored in your garment bag when not in use. Hang the uniform correctly on the hanger. Never store anything in the bottom of the garment bag.

Social Media Policy

Cell phones, social media, and technology are great tools, but with those capabilities come risks. We must take care to maintain a positive reputation throughout social media. It is just as important to represent yourselves well in the social media community as in real life. With that in mind, color guard members must adhere to the following policies regarding cell phone use and social media:

- Phones are to be silenced or turned off during rehearsals at all times. If a cell phone is causing a distraction during rehearsal, the phone will be kept in custody of a staff member until rehearsal has ended.
- Never post anything on any form of social media that could compromise the reputation of the William Byrd High School Instrumental Music Program.
- Inappropriate comments on social media regarding the program, other members, staff, or other organizations will not be tolerated.

Academic Policy

During your time at William Byrd High School, your primary aim is to earn your diploma to set yourself up for long-term success. Therefore, you are expected to balance your time commitments properly. Throughout the course of the season, William Byrd High School Color Guard members are expected to:

- Attend all academic classes regularly.
- Maintain sufficient grades
- Be alert, attentive, and respectful during classes.
- At all times, remember that you represent the William Byrd High School Instrumental Music Program to school officials and employees. Behave accordingly.

Policy Enforcements

Failure to comply with any of the policies outlined in this handbook could result in one or more of the following actions:

- Warning from the director
- Formal apology by the student to the staff and / or the ensemble
- Passed over for or removed from a feature and / or solo
- Loss of 3rd quarter privileges during football games
- Withheld from performing for one or more shows
- Student dismissed from the rehearsal with parent / guardian notified
- Conference with color guard staff / band director / parent guardian
- Dismissal from the ensemble

Handbook Acknowledgement

By signing this form, we acknowledge that:

1. We have read ALL pages of the WBHS Color Guard Handbook.
2. We have had the opportunity to clarify any questions or concerns regarding the handbook.
3. We agree to abide by the policies contained in the handbook.
4. We understand and accept consequences that may arise from failure to adhere to these policies.

Student Signature

Date

Parent / Guardian Signature

Date

**Please return this signed sheet to your instructor or band director no later than
Friday, July 20, 2018**