

**WEATHERFORD HIGH
SCHOOL
COLOR GUARD**

**HANDBOOK
2011-2012**



Color Guard: the SPORT of the ARTS

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PHILOSOPHY

The art and activity of Color Guard is one that combines quality music with an effective visual presentation. Through consistent and positive instruction, it is the goal of the staff to provide our students and audiences with both a highly competitive, yet equally entertaining marching band and Winter Guard show. We want to teach students who are enthusiastic and want to learn.

CODE OF CONDUCT

All members of the Color Guard are expected to adhere to the code of conduct set forth in the Weatherford High School Student Handbook and the Weatherford High School Band Handbook. In addition, all members of the Color Guard must adhere to the following conduct guidelines:

Expected Behavior

Members of the Color Guard are expected to be exemplary members of the student body of Weatherford High School and the Weatherford Ninth Grade Center. This shows in their in-class behavior, their out-of-class behavior, their grades, and their attitude. They are enthusiastic individuals with pride in their school, themselves, and are willing to work as a team. They are polite, respectful, and courteous. Color Guard members are supportive of each other and the Weatherford High School Band. Whether they are in the halls, on the football field, at a parade or at a competition, all members of the Guard are expected to be kind and polite.

Rehearsal Conduct

All members of the ensemble will be taught and given specific details as to proper etiquette during basics block, sectionals and field rehearsals. The band/guard staff in charge of the specific rehearsal will define the etiquette. There are five basic rules that will always be in effect and will be strictly enforced during all rehearsals:

1. SHOW RESPECT FOR ALL BAND/GUARD STAFF
2. Follow all instructions given by the band/guard staff and the band/guard officers
3. Use only appropriate and respectful language, no profanity
4. Comply with the rehearsal dress code: no chewing gum, no jewelry, appropriate clothing (see Rehearsal Expectations)
5. Remain positive and congenial. Any member exhibiting poor attitude or disrespect toward the Guard program, procedures, expectations, the band/guard staff, or any other member may be placed on probation or removed from the performing Guard. If this continues the member may be dismissed from the Guard.

All members are expected to respect and adhere to the chain of command and follow instructions as handed down by those above them in the chain of command. No member is to abuse their power within the chain of command.

Chain of Command:

1. Band/Guard Staff
2. Drum Majors
3. Guard Captain/Head Section Leader
4. Guard Lieutenant/Section Leaders
5. Rank and File Members

Uniform Conduct

Please refer to the Equipment/Uniform Care & Procedures portion of this handbook for specific details on the care and maintenance of your uniform. The reason for these strict guidelines is simply because when we are in uniform we are representing not only ourselves, but also Weatherford High School. Our conduct in the uniform is crucial to developing a strong sense of pride and uniformity in what we do. The following is a list of behaviors that are NOT acceptable while you are in uniform:

1. Profanity
2. Chewing gum
3. Jewelry
4. Immature behaviors (screaming, yelling, arguing, thoughtless actions, etc.)

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

All members of the Weatherford High School Color Guard are expected to meet the following requirements:

1. Maintain acceptable grades in all classes (see Grade Requirements)
2. Maintain a positive attitude and willingness to receive instruction and constructive criticism.
3. Be prepared to fulfill all time obligations.
4. Desiring to be a part of the Guard and accept the responsibilities of this performance and competitive sport.
 - a. Members are expected to come prepared to all rehearsals and performances prepared; they must show improved knowledge and ability of the fundamentals and the show. Rehearsals are intended to rehearse as a Guard unit, individual practice is necessary outside of the Guard rehearsal time. Any member who does not show necessary improvement and competence may be removed from the performing Guard until the band/guard staff determines that the member has improved to a satisfactory level.

Auditions

Auditions may be held for many different elements and results will be based on each member's strengths, performance, and attitude. Initial auditions will be held each spring

for the following fall and winter. A second audition may be held in the fall for the Winter Guard season. This audition will be held at the discretion of the band/guard staff.

A member may be selected as a Guard member in one of two capacities: performing member or alternate/shadow member. Both members are considered full members and will be held to the same standards in all areas. The performing members will begin the year with a guaranteed opportunity to perform while the alternate members will “shadow” a performing member. All members need to understand that their role may be changed based on their performance, attitude, or academic achievement. The initial difference between a performing member and an alternate member is based on the ability level shown during auditions. A change in performing personnel (switching the roll of a performing member to an alternate member and vice versa) may be made at the discretion of band/guard staff, or an alternate member may petition for a change in personnel (these procedures will be further explained by the band/guard staff). Any alternate member should focus on improving their fundamentals and comprehension and performance ability in order to obtain the performing member status.

Other auditions may be held for the weapons line, dance parts, certain equipment parts, or solos/ensembles. The outcomes of these auditions will be based on the auditioning member’s abilities and performances. The band/guard staff members may forgo an audition for certain elements and instead simply assign a member to a certain spot.

Grade Requirements

All members are expected to:

1. Have failed no more than two classes within the previous semester (Fall semester for Winter Guard and Spring semester for Marching season). Failures will be determined at the end of each 6 week grading period.
 - a. When a member fails any class at the end of a 6 weeks grading period they automatically become ineligible until they have become passing of all classes at the next 3 week progress report. Any student who is ineligible will no longer be allowed to perform or compete with the Guard thus weakening the progress made by all members.
 - b. Any member who fails more than two classes within the same semester will automatically be removed from the Guard and will not be allowed to participate for the remainder of the academic year. Following removal from the Guard, a member may re-audition for the following years line if they can meet this requirement; however, renewed membership will determined by the band/guard staff.
2. Maintain at least a 75% in all classes at each 3 week progress report and 6 week grading period, including electives and advanced placement classes.
 - a. In order to avoid any member becoming ineligible at any time, member’s grades will be checked by band/guard staff. Any member receiving a grade lower than a 75% will be required to attend Tuesday and Thursday Night Tutoring until all grades have been satisfactorily raised. Any student with a grade lower than a 75% (even if above a 70%) may be placed on temporary probation by the band/guard staff. Probation may result in the member’s

inability to perform or compete. This step will be made at the discretion of the band/guard staff; however, it will not be placed into effect without the occurrence of a conference between the band/guard staff and the member's parent/guardian.

- b. Any member who becomes ineligible (having received lower than a 70% at the end of a 6 weeks grading period) will automatically be removed from the performing Guard until they have satisfactorily raised all grades.

Attendance Requirements

- Excused Absences

Excused absences may include: school functions, standardized tests/placement exams (i.e. SATs), major family events (i.e. weddings), college visitations, or religious holidays. All absences need to be discussed with the band/guard staff at least 48 hours in advance and must be accompanied by a parent note or a program/flyer from the event.

Emergency excused absences will be determined on a case-by-case basis. These may include illness, injury, or family emergency (i.e. family death). In the event of an emergency absence the band/guard staff must be notified immediately by phone 817-598-2960 ext. 4145 or email abeach@weatherfordisd.com. Asking another member to make the excuse will not be acceptable.

Absence due to illness may be excused if the member was also absent from the school day, or if the parent/guardian notifies the band/guard staff by e-mail or note. Asking another member to make the excuse will not be acceptable.

- Unexcused Absences

Unexcused absences will negatively affect a member's grade and may negatively affect their ability to perform in upcoming performances or contests.

Unexcused absence from performance or competitions will not be tolerated. Any member without proper excuse will be removed from the performance Guard and placed on probation. A parent/guardian conference may be requested before the member is permitted to continue as a performing member.

Tardiness will not be tolerated; repeated tardiness will result in a member placed on probation and may result in the member removed from the performance Guard.

Any member with excessive absences or tardiness will result in the member not being allowed to participate in upcoming performances or competitions.

Illness or Injury

1. Due to the athletic nature of Color Guard, there is a great demand placed on each member to be able to march and perform a complete show. It is the belief of the band/guard staff that all members should practice proper physical conditioning in order to facilitate a strong personal performance and to prevent injury. Calisthenics, stretching and running may be advocated and reinforced at rehearsals.

Members are always encouraged to stretch and warm-up their bodies individually before rehearsing or performing.

2. As with any physical activity, injuries may affect a few members. Illness may also affect a member's ability to rehearse and perform. A doctor's note should always be obtained in the case of a physical injury. In this case of illness or injury, the proper attendance policies must be used to notify the band/guard staff of an absence.
3. If a member becomes too sick or injured to practice or perform for an extended time, they may remain in the Guard as a shadow member until they can be added back into the drill or choreography.
4. If a member falls ill or suffers a minor injury during a regular rehearsal, the member will be permitted to sit out for one rehearsal. If the member is too ill, he or she may be permitted to go home by the band/guard staff. If the member is not well by the next rehearsal or performance, it is requested the member stay home to get healthy and follow proper attendance procedures.
5. Major illnesses or injuries should be reported immediately so that proper medical attention may be given.

REHEARSAL RULES, GRADES, AND EXPECTATIONS

Daily Class Rehearsal

The Color Guard class meets every day during first period. Attendance, participation, and homework (individual practice) for Guard are just as important as in any other class. Guard members must be ready to begin at the start of class. All members will receive a daily participation grade; this grade can be negatively affected by a member's lack of participation or attendance.

Before/After School Rehearsal

The morning and afternoon/evening rehearsal schedule will be determined by the band/guard staff. Participation and attendance at these rehearsals are crucial as well as a part of the member's daily participation grade. Attendance is mandatory; any absences by any members affects how the rest of the Guard unit works and rehearses, therefore please make doctor's appointments etc. at times other than rehearsals.

Rehearsal Expectations

1. No gum, candy, or food during rehearsals.
2. No jewelry, stud earrings or a single necklace may be worn (acceptable chain length will be established by band/guard staff): absolutely no rings, bracelets, long chains, hoop or dangle earrings, etc.
3. No cell phones during rehearsals. Cell phones may not be on any member's person during rehearsals; they may remain off or on silent in the member's bag (phones do not need to be left on vibrate).
4. Members must bring their own water bottle to all rehearsals. Cokes, energy drinks, Kool-Aid like drinks, etc. are not allowed at any rehearsal. Sports drinks may be

consumed but must remain outside of the rehearsal area and away from all equipment.

5. Members must be dressed in appropriate rehearsal attire: tennis shoes or jazz shoes, athletic shorts or pants, and tank-tops or t-shirts. Sandals, boots, jeans, skirts, or any other clothing that limits the movement of the body are not acceptable. Any member arriving at rehearsal wearing inappropriate clothing will be asked to leave and only return when properly clothed, this absence will also affect their daily participation grade.
 - a. Certain rehearsals may require rehearsal black attire. Members are expected to come dressed in full black while still meeting the requirements for appropriate rehearsal attire.
6. All rehearsal time is intended for rehearsing. Socializing or goofing-off is to be done on the member's own time. Disruptive behavior will result in dismissal from the rehearsal and will affect the member's grade and possibly their ability to participate in upcoming performances or competitions.
7. Attendance at daily class rehearsals and before/after school rehearsals is expected; however, the last practice before a performance or competition is mandatory for participation in the performance or competition (see Attendance Requirements).
 - a. Excessive absences or tardiness for any reason will be cause for a drop in grade. No more than three tardies will be allowed and no more than three absences. Excessive tardiness or absences may cause the member to be placed on temporary probation by the band/guard staff. Probation may result in the member's inability to perform or compete. This step will be made at the discretion of the band/guard staff; however, it will not be placed into effect without the occurrence of a conference between the band/guard staff and the member's parent/guardian.

DISMISSALS AND RESIGNATIONS

1. Any member who has resigned from the Guard during the year may petition to the band/guard staff to audition for the following season, their eligibility for audition will be determined by the band/guard staff. A parent/guardian conference may be requested by the parent/guardian or by the band/guard staff.
 - a. If a member resigns a second time after being readmitted to the Guard, they will not be allowed to petition to audition again.
2. Any member who has been dismissed from the Guard will not be permitted to audition for any following season.

EQUIPMENT/UNIFORM CARE & PROCEDURES

Color Guard Uniform Procedures

The desired goal is that the Weatherford High School Band and Color Guard continues a tradition of excellence. The manner in which the Guard presents itself can leave either a

positive or negative impression on the audience and the other Guards. The care of the uniform and the Guard member's behavior while wearing it goes far toward creating pride and exuding excellence. While in uniform, each member is constantly being observed. The personal appearance and actions represent not only the individual member, but also the Weatherford High School Band, Color Guard, school and community. Each member is responsible for the care and maintenance of their uniform.

The specific uniform will be determined by the visual band/guard staff. All members will be required to purchase this uniform; however, the cost will be kept as low as possible. All portions of the uniform including shoes should be kept clean and neat. Hair and makeup designs will be determined by the staff. All members are required to comply with the hair and make-up design so as to ensure uniformity throughout the Guard. Any member in violation of the uniform policy will not be permitted to perform or compete at that time.

Color Guard Room Procedures

This room is to be used exclusively for the storage of Color Guard equipment including flags, rifles, and sabers. It is also to be used as a uniform storage room on the day of a performance or competition. This is a shared space between the Guard and the rest of the band; all members must remember that this space is a privilege and if abused will be taken away. Guard members are expected to keep the Color Guard room neat and clean at all times. There is to be no food or drink in the Guard room at any time (water is allowed). It is every member's responsibility to ensure that equipment is put away properly, uniforms are taken home promptly, and that all trash is picked up.

A cleaning schedule will be created by the captains; all members are to respect and cooperate with this schedule.

Color Guard Equipment

School owned equipment will be lent to each member throughout the year. There are no charges to any member for the use of this equipment; however, it is expected that all members take care of this equipment and not abuse it or their right to use this equipment. Any damage or loss will be financially compensated for by the member responsible. At the end of each year all equipment is to be returned for inventory, members may then be reissued equipment for personal practice. Equipment should never be lent out, left out, or unattended for any reason. It should be cleaned and handled with care and per given instructions.

Specific pieces of equipment (primarily flag silks) are reserved for performance only. The band/guard staff will designate the times at which these equipments will be used. All members are responsible for the care of their performance equipment; this includes the taping of the equipment and ensuring that all equipment remains clean and ready for performance. While electrical tape for performance equipment will typically be provided for all members, each member is required to have the necessary tape for their practice equipment and it is recommended that each member also always have their own roll of black and white electrical tape.

Each member is also responsible for owning their own rifle. It is the responsibility of each member to properly tape and maintain their rifle. It is also the responsibility of each Guard member to provide their own electrical tape and strapping tape for their rifle. The captains and band/guard staff will teach each member how to properly tape this and all other pieces of equipment.

Equipment is for Guard member use only. Each member is responsible for ensuring that only Guard members are using the Guard equipment. A member who cannot cooperate with this will lose the privilege to use the Guard equipment.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

It is vital that all members of the Color Guard understand the need and expectation of their financial responsibilities. Each Guard member is responsible for purchasing the following items before the start of each fall marching season (estimated costs):

Rifle	\$35
Jazz Shoes	\$40
Warm-ups	\$70
Show T-Shirt	\$15
Fall Uniform	\$100
Duffle Bag	\$20
Equipment Bag	\$25
Band Polo	\$15
Friday Night Meals	\$60

Estimated Total: \$380

Any member who has previously purchased any of these items (exception: Show T-Shirt and Uniform) is not required to purchase it again. If any previously purchased item has worn out or is not in good condition that member will be required to replace the item. These prices are estimates, but all costs will be kept as low as possible; however, please be prepared for additional costs. If additional costs do occur, the band/guard staff will try to announce these purchases and prices as soon as possible to allow each family enough time to work out any financial issues. All of the listed items will be ordered by the band/guard staff; additional items may or may not be ordered by the band/guard staff, members should be prepared to procure specific items on their own. An additional uniform will be required for the Winter Guard season, this purchase will not be made until the end of the fall or beginning of the winter semester; once again this cost will be kept as low as possible.

All payment needs to be made in cash or checks which should be made payable to the Weatherford High School Band Fan Club. Payment should be turned into a band/guard staff member either before or after school or rehearsal, please do not attempt to turn in any payment during class or rehearsal. Also, it is the responsibility of the member or parent/guardian to sign and date the official Band Fan Club payment receipt form, until this

form is signed, the member will still be held responsible for payment. Payment should be made as quickly as possible; however, all of the band/guard staff understand that financial difficulties may exist, payment schedules should be discussed with the band/guard staff as soon as possible.

Fundraising

Fundraisers are planned throughout the year to raise money for individual expenses as well as band trips and summer camps. Each member of Color Guard will be expected to participate in all fund-raisers held by the Color Guard and by the Weatherford High School Band. It is always to the student's benefit to make a concerted effort to raise money whenever possible.

PARENT SUPPORT

The participation of your student in this program will hopefully prove to be not only rewarding for your student but for you the parents and guardians as well. Please help the band/guard staff in establishing the proper attitude toward the Guard program at home. Also, support what your child is doing by attending regular performances of the band and encouraging your son or daughter to practice at home.

The band booster organization is another great way to get involved with your child's activity. It is highly recommended that parents/guardians of all Guard members join and actively participate in the Band Fan Club. The Band Fan Club is designed to help students achieve great success. The entire band organization constantly needs people to sew, chaperone, help with equipment, travel, and other miscellaneous projects. The Band Fan Club also finds additional ways to fund the performance groups' needs. The Band Fan Club meets every second Tuesday of the month; for more information, please contact Band Fan Club president Amelia McKinley: president@weatherfordroobands.com.

BAND/GUARD STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Weatherford High School Color Guard will spend many hours outside of class to build and maintain our high standards. We ask you to carefully consider the commitment that you will be making and the responsibilities you must accept. All members can expect multiple morning and afternoon/evening rehearsals throughout the year in addition to class time. As well, all members need to be prepared for the extra time spent on weekends for performances and competitions. If any member has problems maintaining at least a 75% in all classes, it is recommended that you not participate with the Color Guard as the extra hours may take away from your studies. It is, however, a highly rewarding experience that is fun and exciting!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please feel free to contact any of the band/guard staff at any point during the season to discuss any concerns or questions you may have. Communication between parents, students and the directors is crucial to the success of the program.

Color Guard Instructor: Ashton Beach
abeach@weatherfordisd.com
817-598-2960 ext. 4145

WHS Director of Bands: Joe Dolkos
jdolkos@weatherfordisd.com
817-598-2874

WHS Assistant Director of Bands/
Color Guard Teacher of Record: James Buckner
jbuckner@weatherfordisd.com
817-598-2874

CONFIRMATION OF STUDENT HANDBOOK

Please read through the contents of this handbook very carefully. Questions regarding any of this material should be directed to Ashton Beach.

I understand and agree to abide by the responsibilities explained in the Color Guard Handbook and Contract. I understand the financial requirements as well as the time commitment necessary to ensure and continue the tradition of quality of the Weatherford Color Guard. I also accept the terms of attendance and participation.

Student Name (Printed)

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date