

LEON HIGH SCHOOL

COLORGUARD



2011

BAND HANDBOOK

SUPPLEMENT

Dear Parents and Colorguard Members,

You have indicated a desire to become a member of the colorguard at Leon High School. Enclosed is a copy of the 2011 band handbook supplement for colorguard. Please read it carefully and sign/return the enclosed form.

Colorguard is time consuming and requires a financial obligation. Students are required to pay for shoes, uniforms, tights, etc. As members of the band, the colorguard will have ample opportunity to fundraise to offset costs. No one shall be turned away due to financial issues! Please see Mr. Thornton, if you have any questions or concerns about this issue.

More than the financial obligation is the time factor. We will begin now to make the team the best it can be! During the summer we will hold a two-week band camp, August 1-12. Additionally, we will rehearse on August 16 and 18. When school starts you will be required to attend colorguard class daily, practice 2 days a week after school (Tuesday and Thursday 3:30 – 6:00), and perform at all football games. There may be sectionals and captain practices as well. These after school rehearsals are in addition to the required colorguard class which will be part of your daily schedule in the fall.

Also, keep in mind that colorguard is a sport and marching band, by its nature is a physical activity. Colorguard members use every available resource from their bodies to the smiles on their faces, to create an atmosphere of excellence and inspiration. There is a great demand placed on a student to be able to march and perform to complete a show. As a result, it is the belief of the guard staff that there should be proper conditioning throughout the season in order to facilitate a strong personal performance and to prevent injury. Running, stretching, and toning will be advocated and reinforced at rehearsals.

Most importantly, colorguard is an activity where performers unite as a team and learn from one another while building self-confidence and personal improvement. When you join guard, you join a family. Being a member of the colorguard requires making a commitment to a group of people and saying that you will do whatever it takes to make the team as good as it can be. Members learn the importance of responsibility and working for a larger goal. They learn leadership skills and earn respect. Above all, they learn whatever you put forward you will get back. Hard work really does pay off!

Consider carefully your decision to become a member of the Leon Colorguard because it is a tremendous commitment for your child and parents. Should you have any questions after reading the band handbook handbook and its colorguard supplement, please contact Mr. Thornton.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Ferrell-Locke
Leon Colorguard Coach
suzanne@leonperformingarts.org

REQUIRED INSTRUMENT ACCESSORIES

4 1 inch rubber chair tips
1 roll of electrical tape
Sewing travel kit with needle and thread
1 bottle of Frey Check

INSTRUMENT CARE

1. All poles should have rubber tips on both ends. The tips should be protected by electrical tape. The electrical tape should also attach the tip to the pole to ensure that it does not come loose.
2. With time and use, especially in the heat, electrical tape can become worn and loose. It is important that you retape your flags and end tips at least once every 2 weeks. It may need to be done more often depending on rehearsal conditions. The electrical tape is used to protect your equipment. It is important to replace the electrical tape to help increase the longevity of the equipment.
3. Flags should be kept clean. The silks may be washed by hand with woolite. Do not use regular detergent or a washing machine to clean your silks.
4. Flags should be kept dry. In the event that your flag gets wet (which will happen in the rain), it is imperative that you let them dry completely before returning them to your flag bag. Flags can be air dried or a blow dryer can be used to help expedite the process. Do not place your flags in the drier.
5. Flag fabric is very delicate. It is important that you do not pull on your silk, sit on it, or wrap it around you (unless it is choreographed). Doing so will help prevent it from tearing. Should you develop a hole in your flag please notify Ms. Ferrell-Locke. She will determine if it can be sewn by hand or needs to seek further repair.
6. All equipment should be stored properly in your flag bag. To properly store a flag, you must roll the silk around the pole before placing it in the bag.

REHEARSAL ATTIRE

Appropriate rehearsal attire must be worn at all times. No jeans or jean shorts or baggy clothing. Extra fabric around your body can get tangled in flag poles, which could cause injury. You should always have a pair of tennis shoes/sneakers or dance shoes for rehearsal. No flip-flops, sandals, open toed shoes, or heeled shoes. An example of an acceptable outfit would be a T-Shirt, soft shorts, and sneakers.

Hair should be worn up and back, away from the face and neck.

Necklaces, bracelets, rings, and hoop and dangly earrings should not be worn at practice. Stud earrings are allowed.

Keep in mind that we will experience a wide variety of weather conditions throughout the season, so it is your responsibility to be prepared for any possible weather. Marching Band is an outdoor activity and requires us to be outside during uncomfortable conditions at times (i.e. excessive heat, light rain, etc.)

REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE

You should respect yourself as well as others at all times. If a staff member is talking, your equipment should be still and your mouth closed. Your equipment should also be still when you finish running a segment. Freeze! Strip your flag and do not go on.

COORDINATE SHEETS

You are responsible for having your coordinate sheets with you at ALL rehearsals.

WATER

Students should come prepared to all rehearsals with water. Ample breaks for water, not for socializing, will be given throughout each rehearsal and it is the student's responsibility to have this available to themselves during rehearsals. Water coolers need to be at least a half gallon and must be present at every rehearsal, no matter what time of day. Small 16 oz bottles do not last for a 2-3 hour rehearsal. Products such as Gatorade and Powerade are permitted as well. However, no carbonated or caffeinated drinks are allowed.

FOOD AND GUM

Gum and food are not permitted at any time.

ROUTINES

It is the student's responsibility to learn the warm-ups and routines. For some students this may mean extra practice at home or with friends. If you are unable to complete the routines with confidence, you may be asked not to march at a performance. It is a safety hazard for your teammates. Please do not hesitate to ask for extra help or help each other. Giving, when requested, and asking for advice for improvement is okay, but please remember that no one is perfect and we all have feelings.

GUARD CAPTAIN

The guard captain is chosen based on her proven leadership abilities and is expected to act as a leader during rehearsals and performances. All members are expected to follow the lead and direction of the captain. If you need any extra help please feel free to call the guard captain. She is there to help you.

COLORGUARD ROOM

This room is to be used for the storage of colorguard equipment. Students are expected to keep the colorguard room neat and clean at all times. Also, it is every member's responsibility to ensure that equipment is put away properly. The only time that you may place personal belongings in the closet is during rehearsals and performances. The colorguard closet is not your personal locker. Therefore, leaving your belongings in the closet before and after rehearsals and performances is not tolerated.

UNIFORM

While you are in uniform, you are constantly being observed. Your personal appearance and your actions represent not only you, but also your band, school, and community. The manner in which the guard presents itself can leave either a positive or negative impression on the audience. A guard member's behavior while wearing it goes far toward creating pride and continuing tradition.

The colorguard uniform will be determined by the visual designer. You are responsible for its care and maintenance. All portions of the uniform, including shoes, are expected to be kept clean. If something needs to be fixed or adjusted on your uniform, simply report it to the guard captain or a staff member.

Hair, makeup, and jewelry are also a component of your uniform. Please follow the instruction of the colorguard staff to their EXACT specifications in regards to hair, makeup, and jewelry.

A student in violation of any of the uniform procedures will not be permitted to perform. Your uniform is a symbol of dignity, prestige, and stature. Wear it proudly!

TRANSPORTATION

If you do not drive, please be sure that you have reliable transportation. Transportation issues are not an acceptable excuse for being absent or late.

CONSEQUENCES

Should a student not follow the policies set forth in the band handbook and its supplement for colorguard, they will attend “5th quarter practice” or lose “3rd quarter privileges.” Losing “3rd quarter privileges” requires that students stay in the stands during the 3rd quarter of a football game. “5th quarter practice” many consist of extra physical conditioning, run throughs, drop spins, etc. after rehearsal or a performance. These consequences are in addition to any effect their actions may have on their grade.

Last, but not least...

ENJOY YOURSELF AND HAVE FUN!

CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT OF HANDBOOK

Please read through the contents of this band handbook supplement very carefully. Questions regarding any of this material should be directed to Mr. Thornton or Ms. Ferrell-Locke.

If there are no questions and you agree to abide by the contents of this band handbook supplement, please read and sign the statement below.

STUDENT STATEMENT

I hereby certify that I, _____ have read and understand the contents of this handbook. I recognize and fully understand the policies set forth, and I am prepared to accept the consequences for any violation of them. I am also aware of the time and financial obligation as well as the physical demand of colorguard at Leon High School.

Student Name – Printed

Student Signature Date

PARENT/GUARDIAN STATEMENT

I hereby certify that I have read and understand the contents of this handbook. I recognize and understand the policies set forth by which my child may participate, and I acknowledge that she will have to face the consequences of violating the contents of this handbook. I am also aware of the time and financial obligation as well as the physical demand of colorguard at Leon High School.

Parent/Guardian Name – Printed

Parent/Guardian Signature Date