

Color Guard/ Drill Team Handbook and Contract

I. Goals

The goal of the CV High School Color Guard/ Drill Team is to provide an opportunity for students to participate in representing their school and maintain and build a performance group. The Color Guard/ Drill Team is a unit that teaches teamwork and performance skills, builds confidence and self-esteem.

Teamwork and group activities require that an individual put aside their personal feelings for the good of the group. What is required of one is required of all. When each individual is willing to give up a small part of her/himself, the group benefits. Personal sacrifice is an important component of Color Guard/ Drill Team.

A commitment to the CV Color Guard/ Drill Team is one that requires a tremendous amount of time as well. If you have problems maintaining a "C" average (2.0 cumulative GPA), it is recommended that you carefully consider if you will be able to handle the commitment to the group.

Most importantly, membership to Color Guard/ Drill Team is a *privilege* not a right.

II. Audition and Tryouts

Membership Qualifications

In order to try-out for the Color Guard/ Drill Team, you must have the following requirements:

1. Currently carry a 2.0 cumulative GPA in all classes, including P.E. and electives
2. Maintain a "C" average in all classes, including P.E. and electives
3. Not receive any "U's", and no more than 2 "N's" in citizenship per quarter.
4. Maintain a positive attitude and willingness to receive instruction and constructive criticism.
5. Desire to be part of team, understanding this is a competition and performance squad.
6. Be prepared to fulfill the time obligations
7. Have no new piercings or visible tattoos. Any current piercings must be removable.

Audition/ Tryout

Potential members must complete an application form. (Appendix B). Potential members must also receive a letter of recommendation regarding citizenship and potential for contribution to the team. (Appendix C) Potential members and his/her parent/ guardian must also read the contract and sign and return the contract agreement before the audition (Appendix A). Potential members must learn a routine to be performed before a panel of judges. They will be evaluated on Showmanship, Execution, Knowledge and Technique. (These categories are developed and maintained by the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association, the governing "body" for the evaluation of Color Guard/ Drill Teams and marching bands). There is no "limit" to the number of members; however, the quality of the group is always more important than the quantity.

III. Class Rules, Grades, and Expectations

Daily Class

Color Guard/ Drill Team is a class that meets zero period **every day**. Attendance, participation, homework, and presence are very important, just as in any other class. Color Guard/ Drill Team members must be ready to begin when class starts. Members earn a grade for the participation in Color Guard/ Drill Team.

Weekly After- School Practice

Practices are crucial to the eventual performance quality of the Color Guard/ Drill Team. Hard work at practices will definitely show in performances!!!! Therefore, each practice must be fully utilized. The Color Guard/ Drill Team will practice every Wednesday and Thursday after school, starting promptly at 4:00 and ending at 6:00. Frequently, there are additional practices held in the morning before school or even on a Friday. Practices are mandatory. It is difficult to coordinate the efforts and movements of upwards of 150 people. Each person depends on the presence of the other members. **Therefore, please make doctor's appointments, etc. on days other than Wednesday and Thursday.**

Rehearsal and Class Rules

1. **No** gum or candy at practice or performance.
2. Members **must bring** water bottle with no spill tops.
3. Members must be dressed in **appropriate** workout attire, including tennis shoes, socks, shorts and a T-shirt. Sweatshirt and waterproof jackets during the fall months are recommended. Members should *never* be in violation of the school dress code.
4. There is no socializing or horseplay at any time. Any “down” time should be spent reviewing and rehearsing.
5. The last practice before a performance is **MANDATORY** in order for **PARTICIPATION** in the performance. Many last minute adjustments and corrections are made before a performance.
6. Excessive absences or tardies 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.
7. No jewelry should be worn at practice. Stud earrings are acceptable. No watches, bracelets or necklaces. Color Guard/ Drill Team members should carefully consider bringing these to class and having a secure location in which to keep them. No jewelry should be worn for any performance.
8. Color Guard/ Drill Team members should make a conscious effort to quickly become acquainted with the warm-up and stretching routine so that practice may begin quickly and safely.

Behavior

At School and Performance Venues

Members of the Color Guard/ Drill Team are **exemplary members** of the student body of CV High School. 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/ Drill Team members are supportive of *each other*, the Marching Band, Drum Line, and the group’s collaborative and individual efforts. Whether they are in the halls, on the football field, at a parade or at a competition, they are kind and polite.

At Rehearsals and Practice

Since the Marching Unit is so large, it is necessary for a chain of command to be established, respected, and followed. The Advisor and Coach frequently make decisions which they impart to the captain(s) to inform the Color Guard/ Drill Team. Because Color Guard/ Drill Team works in conjunction with the Marching Band, there are several people who will and can have direct authority and supervision over the group. Therefore, if at any time a member is disrespectful to **anyone** within the workings of field show performances or the Color Guard/ Drill Team unit, they will be removed from the next performance. If this occurs more than once, the Color Guard/ Drill Team member, the offended individual, the Advisor/Coach and Vice Principal will discuss whether that offending member truly belongs on Color Guard/ Drill Team. This will also effect the member’s grade.

Dismissal from the group will result if there are **three** infractions or more, including but not limited to problems with maintaining the proper grade point average. Each infraction will be documented and acknowledged by the advisor or coach, a captain or squad leader and the member believed to be guilty of the infraction. When two infractions of disrespectful behavior have occurred, a note will be sent home to the parent informing them of the problem. The third infraction will result in a dismissal.

Performances

Performances are the result of **hours** of hard work by **everyone** involved with Color Guard/ Drill Team. These are the moments that should be savored and enjoyed! In order to make each performance as magical as it can be, it is important to understand that all members must attend practices. The attire and appearance of each member must be as alike as possible. Performances also require you to arrive early and prepare *with the group*. These are also tests or quizzes upon which members will be graded. Video will be taken and reviewed. Grades are *comprehensive*; as skills are learned, a continued degree of fluency and growth must be demonstrated.

Grades

First and foremost – a member must maintain membership on the performance squad. If a member is unable to maintain a 2.0 GPA for **two quarters**, that member will be dropped from the performance team.

They must continue to come to class, but they will spend the period working on homework and class work for other classes until their GPA changes. If they cannot do this within two quarters, they will be dropped from the squad and the class.

Because Color Guard/ Drill Team is a **graded class**, members must understand how they will earn their grades.

- *Attendance(Class and Practice)* – it is the key component to the team. Each member must be present in-class. Illness and other emergencies are inevitable in life. However, homework, friends, computer and TV are not reasons to stay up late, come to school late, and miss rehearsals. Every day members are in class on time ready to practice is 10 points. Tardies will reduce the points possible to 5.
- *Homework* – Skills learned during class must be rehearsed at home. Members should anticipate reserving *at least 20 minutes* a night to review skills, practice routines, memorize show counts and perfect marching and dance technique. Good health is important as well. Eating well-balanced meals and getting enough sleep are key. Members must also keep their grades up. Homework for other classes is important as well.
- *Quizzes* – Quizzes determine whether members have “studied” their homework and practiced at home. Members will be quizzed on routine content and precision of execution. They will be required to demonstrate continued improvement until they reach mastery. Each quiz is worth 10 points. Evaluation will be based on execution, precision, knowledge, and showmanship. Practice the way it should be performed.
- *Participation* – This is a difficult one to explain, but it is the determined focus of each member that makes for true excellence. Positive attitude is the most important quality. This cannot be measured in any quantifiable term; however, a member’s progress, participation, performance, willingness to ask for help and general behavior are some ways in which this grade can be determined. Attendance alone is not enough. A willingness to try, make mistakes, and try again are key. Each member must *practice* during practice. Practice makes perfect! Practice the way the routine should be performed! These are necessary mantras for a squad that wants to attain excellence. Members will earn another 10 points each day for their participation.
- *Performances* – Every performance, big (a competition) or small (a basketball game), is worth 100 points. 50 points will be allotted for arriving on time, preparation, and readiness to perform. The other 50 points will be determined by the quality of the performance.

IV. Equipment and Maintenance

Color Guard/ Drill Team is a performance group distinguished by the use of props, particularly flags, rifles, or other equipment. The maintenance and care of this equipment is incredibly important. Cost for the use of practice and performance equipment is covered by initial membership fee; however, if a member is irresponsible, he/she must replace the broken or lost equipment. Equipment must be stored and cared for correctly. 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. Should a member pass off his/her equipment to another, the initial member is still responsible for the “fate” of the equipment.

V. Awards and Achievements

Monthly acknowledgments will be made with the Color Guard/ Drill Team captains, Advisor and Coach to individuals within the group who show outstanding improvement, commitment and teamwork. At the end of the year, various awards will be handed out. Leadership certificates and completion certificates will be awarded as well.

Spirit/Pride Award (Most Spirited): A Color Guard/ Drill Team member showing enthusiasm, spirit and pride for not only the Color Guard/ Drill Team but the school as well; someone who is excited to simply be at practice and the opportunity to participate in an group that is fun

Drill Down Champion (winner of most drill downs): an individual who has consistently shown skill in military bearing and commands

Most Improved: to the member of Color Guard/ Drill Team who shows the most skill improvement since try-outs.

Superior Performer: a member of the Color Guard/ Drill Team who consistently shows excellence in performance with showmanship, precision, and knowledge.

Color Guard/ Drill Team Service Award (Most helpful/ Service Award): Awarded to a member of Color Guard/ Drill Team who consistently attends and fulfills beyond the requirements the needs of the Color Guard/ Drill Team; who volunteers to help and goes beyond the call of duty

Color Guard/ Drill Team Leadership Award: Goes to an individual who always leads by example with a smile and energy what Color Guard/ Drill Team stands for; an individual who is a member others can turn to for help and support; someone who leads the Color Guard/ Drill Team

VI. Financial Obligations

Each member of Color Guard/ Drill Team will be expected to **participate in all fund-raisers** held by the Color Guard/ Drill Team and Marching Band. The Team itself has expenses, such as music, equipment, uniform maintenance, etc. Each member must therefore contribute to the fundraising needs of the unit. Each member will rent a uniform and equipment. There are some parts of the uniform that must be purchased by each member. A general overview of yearly costs is listed below:

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP COSTS –estimated and subject to change each year.

Equipment

Practice Pole	15.00
Practice Flag	7.00
Gloves	25.00

Uniform

C.G. Sweatshirt & Pants	100.00
CG T-shirt	25.00
Shorts	25.00
Shoes – outdoor	35.00
Shoes – indoor	35.00
Uniform Rental – Parade	30.00
Field Show	100.00
Winter Guard	100.00
Team Bag	40.00

Miscellaneous Costs

ASB Membership	25.00
Maintenance/ Cleaning	15.00
Coaches/ Instructors	50.00

Total Estimated Yearly Cost \$627.00

Captains are/ will be expected to attend camp during the summer with the Marching Band officers. (Anyone is welcome to attend camp; however, we will only be able to subsidize the captain's cost.) Captains must purchase uniforms for that event as well. One half of the expense of the captain's cost of camp will be covered by the group, since the captain will bring back the routines and information gathered at camp. Of course, a payment schedule can always be arranged. In any case, confidentiality will be a top priority. Color Guard/ Drill Team is a group for everyone. No one should ever feel left out or excluded for financial reasons. **NO ONE SHOULD NOT AUDITION BECAUSE THEY CANNOT AFFORD THE COSTS. IF MONEY IS A PROBLEM, PLEASE SPEAK WITH THE ADVISOR OR COACH.**

If a Color Guard/ Drill Team member chooses to leave the team or is asked to leave the team, please be aware **YOU** will still be required to complete your financial obligations to the team.

VII Parent Support

It is **highly recommended** that parents join and actively participate in the Booster Club, designed to help students achieve great success. We constantly need people to sew, chaperone, help with equipment, travel, and other miscellaneous projects. The group also finds additional ways to fund the performance groups' needs. The Parent Music Boosters meet every second Tuesday of the month.

Our Recommendation

The CV Color Guard/ Drill Team will spend many hours outside of class to build and maintain our high standards. We ask you to *consider carefully* the commitment that you will be making and the responsibilities you must accept. During the Fall Field Show and Parade season, we meet two afternoons per week **in addition to class time** to prepare programs and rehearse. Extra rehearsals are frequently scheduled immediately prior to performances. If you have problems maintaining a "C" average, it is recommended that you not be on Color Guard/ Drill Team as extra hours may take away from your studies. It is, however, a highly rewarding experience that is fun and exciting.

CV's Color Guard/ Drill Team will be a success, and we hope you can be a part of it!

Mathew Schick,
Instrumental Music Teacher,
Marching Band Teacher
818-249-5871 x 3106

Elizabeth Weaver,
English Teacher,
Color Guard/ Drill Team Advisor
x5309

**Appendix A:
CVHS Color Guard/ Drill Team Contract Agreement**

I understand and agree to abide by the responsibilities explained in the Color Guard/ Drill Team 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 CV Color Guard/ Drill Team. I also accept the terms of attendance and participation.

Parent Name (Printed)	Parent Signature	Date
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Student Name (Printed)	Student Signature	Date
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