



GOHS Color Guard  
Membership Handbook

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## CONTACTS

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### Website:

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## WELCOME TO THE GRAND OAKS HIGH SCHOOL COLOR GUARD!

On behalf of the Grand Oaks High School Band and Color Guard and the GOHS Band Booster organization, we extend a warm welcome to all color guard members. This document is to provide you the rules and policies of the Grand Oaks Color Guard which is a part of the Grand Oaks 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.

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 *Guard Membership Handbook, the Grand Oaks Band Operations Handbook and The Grand Oaks High School Student Handbook.*

## COLOR GUARD PHILOSOPHY / PURPOSE

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

Members should exemplify both individual and group behavior suitable to their position and accordance with the rules stated in the Guard Handbook and GOHS 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 GOHS organizations through support, personal attitude and attendance at required events.

### MEMBERSHIP

Grand Oaks High School is privileged to have a Color Guard. The Color Guard activity is growing across the country and we are excited that it is here. The responsibility of the Color Guard during marching season is to bring colorful variety to the marching show through expressive movement and colorful equipment and costumes. Due to the newness of this activity, Conroe ISD has not assigned the instruction of this group to a full-time teacher which brings the Color Guard under the umbrella of the Band. Instruction for this group comes from outside consultants who are paid jointly by CISD and the GOHS Band Booster Association.

Prospective members must attend a mandatory tryout clinic and participate in the scheduled auditions before qualified Judges. ***The audition process includes:***

Dance Background and Ability

Student Interview

Equipment Handling

Parent Interview

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 summer band. Members should use discretion in their commitments to multiple extracurricular activities. Members must attend May rehearsals 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 may perform in less of the fall marching show. Members and their parents shall be aware of the responsibilities and the expenses of the organization. Membership for The Grand Oaks High School Color Guard begins immediately upon notification of acceptance.

Members understand that until proven otherwise, the officers and chaperones will be considered 'right' in all instances. 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 following 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.

## **ORGANIZATION**

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. **What is Color Guard?**

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

## COLOR GUARD LEADERSHIP

### Color Guard Officers and the Roles of Office

Performance Officers will have direct, daily authority over the team as required by the director. They will have responsibility over the technical aspects of the organization and performance work as required. The Social Officers will not have daily authority over any team member. The social officers will have authority in planning and executing the responsibilities that they have been assigned. (Social, party, locker decorations, motivation, etc)

### Performance Officers:

**Captain** – This is the highest ranked officer of the organization. They report directly to the Director. When the director is away from the team, for any reason, the Captain is in charge and has authority that will be supported 100% by the director. Roles of the captain may include, but not be limited to:

1. Keep a detailed officer notebook and officer list of duties performed.
2. Required to attend all guard rehearsals and events
3. Lead other officers in their responsibilities and tasks
4. Leading body warm-up and technique exercises when necessary
5. Direct loading and unloading of equipment truck
6. Lead motivator for the guard
7. Hold weekly inspections
8. Work with individuals to facilitate their individual success and full guard success
9. Represent the color guard in school activities where student leaders are needed
10. Attend leadership camp as directed by GOHS Band and Color Guard
11. Attend guard summer camp Manage attendance list for color guard
12. Participate in and be eligible the full year prior to their audition
13. Any other duties assigned by the directors

**Lieutenants** – The number of lieutenants will be in direct relation to the number of guard members and number of officer candidates for any given year. The Directors have final say in the number of lieutenants regardless of the guard size.

1. Keep a detailed officer notebook and officer list of duties performed
2. Support Captains at all times
3. Equipment Management – responsible for the upkeep of equipment (may be divided)
4. Equipment Management – responsible for floors and carts (may be divided)
5. Costume Management – responsible for check-out and turn-in of costumes (may be divided)
6. Help captain with inspections when required
7. Help captain to motivate the guard when required
8. Work with individuals to facilitate their individual success and full guard success (assigned areas)

9. Represent the color guard in school activities where student leaders are needed
10. Attend leadership camp as directed by GOHS Band and Color Guard
11. Any other duties assigned by the directors

**Social Officer** - The social officer is a lead motivator. This role is responsible for:

1. Group activities that will recognize the group and individuals
2. Group games
3. Group events – such as dinners/ movies, outings, etc.
4. Weekly motivational activities
5. Member of the week award distribution
6. Holiday events
7. Attend summer camp
8. Attend full summer band Participate in and be eligible the full year prior to their audition
9. Any other duties assigned by the directors

**\*\*Please note: Officers are required to arrive for all rehearsals, performances and events at least ten (10) minutes before the rest of the guard and can expect to be finished about fifteen (15) minutes after rehearsals end to direct the team in all setups and teardowns.**

**Any member that would like to be considered for an officer or weapons position must have been eligible at all times the previous year. If a member of the weapon line becomes ineligible during the year, they may be removed from the line and may not be eligible for the weapon line. The director's decision in this matter is final.**

### **Loss of Office**

If an officer becomes ineligible during their term, they will forfeit that officer position for the remainder of the school year. The position may be reassigned to another student at the director's discretion. If an officer does not display the proper work ethic geared towards the overall improvement of the guard, the band, or if an officer does not attend a rehearsal, performance, or major event, they will forfeit their position for the remainder of the school year. If an officer violates the contract or has un-excused absences, they will forfeit their office for the remainder of the year. All eligibility rules apply before they may audition for officer a second time.

## CONDUCT AND REHEARSAL GUIDELINES

- All students must follow the school's *Student Code of Conduct*.
- Show good rehearsal etiquette by being a good team player--.
- Practice sections of the show or fundamentals quietly while the director works with other sections.
- Maintain proper posture at all times and stay on task at all times.
- Do not talk or interrupt the focus of any rehearsal.
- Raise your hand and ask questions if you need more individual help.
- Never let anyone touch your equipment for any reason unless instructed to do so by a director.
- Keep a watchful eye on any equipment checked out on an individual basis.
- Be respectful of all directors.
- Disorderly behavior and abusive language will not be tolerated.

### Travel Guidelines

- Students must follow any instruction given by a director or chaperone.
- All students must adhere to the school's *Student Code of Conduct*.
- All of the student participating with the marching band and color guard must realize that they are representing the GOHS program, with a high reputation for excellence. Each student must conduct themselves in a manner that is conducive to this highly visible program they have chosen to participate in.

## ELIGIBILITY\*

- Students must maintain a grade average no lower than a 70 on a scale of 0-100 for the preceding grading period, in order to travel to an event with the band/color guard.
- However, a student may regain eligibility seven calendar days after the succeeding three-week evaluation period if the student is passing all courses on the last day of the three week period.
- Any student that becomes ineligible will be immediately put on alternate status. (Alternate Status is further described under "private practice and other expectations).

\*See *GOHS Band Operations Handbook* for details on Eligibility



## COLOR GUARD FAQ'S

Why should I join color guard?

1. Make new friends and build relationships for a lifetime.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Become well-rounded! Color guard requires higher level thinking that translates into many other areas.
5. Band and color guard have the highest percentage of honors students in the school.
6. Colleges LOVE guard students. The leadership opportunities in band and color guard are extensive.
7. 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 during football season. 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. Each show is created to support the selected music.

When does the guard practice?

- All members are required to participate in summer camp, summer band and all scheduled rehearsals, performances, and competitions. The guard has weekly rehearsals for most of the school year. The Grand Oaks 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. TYPICALLY the guard rehearses Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, with a few minor changes over the season. During Winter Guard Season, the guard will have three weekly rehearsals. There are some Saturday camps involving designers and choreographers taking place during this time of year. 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.

What is a typical practice for color guard?

- The guard will do daily body and equipment warm ups. There will be both indoor and outdoor rehearsals during football season. Winter season rehearsals and performances take place in gymnasiums.

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. They will be eligible for the next program if there is no spot available. All members must come to rehearsal even if they are not eligible to perform. Because GOHS guard represents our school, it is important that each member displays responsibility, cooperation and respect for authority at all times. Any member or prospective member who has been suspended or received ALA or an ISS assignment will not be allowed to tryout or to continue membership. Directors enforce these student responsibilities. (EXCEPTION: a member may serve ONE, one-day assignment for dress code violations only.)

Is attendance important?

- 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 GOHS 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 every other class. It is not to be missed for appointments. Missing a rehearsal or performance may result in loss of the performance position. If a member is going to be late or miss a rehearsal / performance, it is their responsibility to contact the director in advance of being late.

Is there a Booster Club for color guard?

- Yes. The Guard Booster Club is included in the GOHS Band Booster Organization. Fees, sponsorships and activities will all be facilitated through this organization. The Color Guard has a position on the GOHS Band Booster Board and all Parents are encouraged to participate in Booster activities.

## CONDUCT GUIDELINES FOR COLOR GUARD MEMBERS

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

1. Students will follow all rules and policies stated in the CISD Student Handbook and Code of Conduct, as well as in the GOHS High School Student Handbook.
2. Students will show respect for:
  - a. All fellow students and officers
  - b. Directors and staff
  - c. Any chaperones and volunteers.
  - d. Contest staff and administrators
  - e. Any hotel or restaurant staff and patrons
  - f. All property of The Grand Oaks High School Band and Color Guard, as well as that of fellow students.
3. Students will follow instructions from directors, student leaders, and designated band chaperones.
4. Instructions will be followed the FIRST time they are given.
5. Students will not disrupt instruction at any time.
6. Students will be on time (which means 15 minutes early!) for all rehearsals, performances, and activities.
7. Students will have appropriate equipment, attire and supplies at all times.
8. Students will be prepared to contribute to rehearsals and performances by fulfilling individual practice obligations and working to improve their skills.
9. Students will have a willing and positive attitude.
10. Students will use appropriate language at all times. Students will refrain from inappropriate public displays of affection.
11. Students will not lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate anyone who does.
12. Students will not eat or drink in the Band Hall. Food, drink, and gum are not allowed in any rehearsal or performance area.
13. Students will follow all bus riding rules and travel policies set forth by Conroe ISD, as well as GOHS Band and Color Guard.
14. 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.
15. Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area ready to work at the set rehearsal time.
16. Students will wear appropriate, school approved clothing at all times. Rehearsal dress code will be followed at all times.
17. Students should ask for permission to speak by raising their hand and waiting to be acknowledged.

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

### **Dismissal from GOHS Color Guard**

These offenses may result in forfeiture of membership in GOHS 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.

1. Member who has been suspended or received an ISS or ALA assignment will forfeit membership.
2. Member who becomes ineligible twice during a school year.
3. 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.
4. Smoking tobacco in any member clothing or while representing GOHS.
5. Excessive absences
6. Any member that receives an MIP, DUI, DWI, or other drug or alcohol related offense will automatically forfeit their membership.
7. Theft of team or individual property.
8. Hazing or initiation of any student by another student.
9. Members who assault or harass directors or team members.
10. Members involved in creating, leading, or participating in an initiation process.
11. 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.
12. Any offense not covered in this handbook, but which is clearly and logically an offense shall be declared appropriate for dismissal by the directors.

## SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

**Respect Yourself** - I will show respect for myself through my actions. I will select online names that are appropriate. I will consider the information and images I post online. I will not post personal information about my life or relationships that can be deemed inappropriate. I will not post or repost content that may include profanity, drugs, alcohol, or that is derogatory and/or sexual in nature.

**Protect Yourself** - I will ensure that the information I post online will not put me at risk. I will not publish my personal details, contact details or a schedule of my activities. I will report any inappropriate behavior directed at me. I will protect passwords, accounts and resources.

**Respect Others** - I will show respect to others. I will not use electronic mediums to bully or harass other people. I will not respond to any negative or inappropriate messages. I will be respectful, credible, and truthful.

**Honor My Uniform** - I will ensure that all images of my uniforms are suitable and reflect the team in a positive light. Uniforms are to be worn properly at all times in all digital posts (buttoned, zipped, and worn correctly). Posting of non-team members in uniform is not permitted.

**Protect My Team** - I understand that everything I post is a reflection of my team and I will keep in mind that my use of technology has an effect on others. Content I post will be positive and support the goals of the team. I will not use digital media to express my negative emotions. I will contact my coach/director to mediate conflict. I will not post anything that could hurt or jeopardize the reputation of the team.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

In order for the GOHS Winter Guard to achieve the highest level of excellence, attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory. This emphasis on attendance is for the good of the entire ensemble. Without full attendance, we cannot function as a proper whole. Our team is harmed by inconsistent effort. Success will only come with consistent attendance at rehearsals by all members of the ensemble.

It is equally important for students to be on time and ready to begin at the designated starting time. (*\*in order to start on time, the student must arrive a few minutes prior to account for adequate preparation time. \**)

The following potential conflicts with rehearsals or performances must be submitted in writing at least one month prior to the conflict:

- Marriage of a family member
- Other CISD sponsored events
- Special situations (discussed with and agreed upon by Color Guard Director).

The only other acceptable excuses for missing rehearsals or performances are immediate communication of these excuses are imperative:

- Documented illness, with a doctor's note
- Death in the Family
- Family emergency that deals with immediate family.

*\*Missing rehearsals to finish homework or study for tests is not an approved absence.*

### **Attendance Policy**

Two (2) unexcused absences from rehearsal/or performance may result in the student being asked to forfeit their spot in the ensemble and will require a conference with the Color Guard Director.

All rehearsals and contests dates are posted on the Charms website ([www.charmsoffice.com](http://www.charmsoffice.com)). Any changes to this schedule will be announced via the GOHS Color Guard Band App/Remind 101 and to the students directly.

## GOHS COLOR GUARD HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

[Please click here to sign this acknowledgement](#)

I have read the entire GOHS Color Guard Student/Parent Handbook and I am responsible for being aware of all of its contents. In particular, I have read the Conduct Guidelines, Course Requirements, Eligibility - No Pass, No Play, Travel Guidelines, Expenses to Expect, and Rehearsal Expectations.

I understand that the directors may adjust 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 GOHS Color Guard Member, they are committed to the fees required for participation. (marching and winter fees, personal items fees, trip fees, etc.) If my child leaves the organization, is removed for any reason, or forfeits their position on the team, the full amount of the fee commitment is due which may include an any all trip fees, extra fees based upon purchased items or contracts for services that include your child. Your child may not be exempt from finals, may not be able to register the following school year and perhaps may not be able to graduate until all monies owed CISD are paid.

I understand that the flags belong to the band, not the students, and are assigned to the GOHS Color Guard Student. If for any reason my child leaves the organization, is removed for any reason or forfeits their position on the team the flags are required to be returned. If the flag is not returned you will be responsible for providing payment for the purchase of a replacement.

I agree to follow the principles of digital citizenship outlined in this agreement and accept that failing to follow these tenets will result in consequences as outlined by the director, GOHS Color Guard Handbook, and CISD Student Code of Conduct.

I accept the terms of attendance for the GOHS Guard. I understand if I violate this policy the Director reserves the right to revoke my performing opportunities subject to the penalties outlined in the policy and/or remove me from Color Guard membership.

**Please note that no refunds of any kind will be given.**

[Please click here to sign this and the](#) GOHS Band Operations Handbook.