

HHS

Guard

Handbook

2022-2023

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Hardin High School Color Guard is to provide students with the opportunity to develop and promote school spirit as a group, to encourage high academic standards, cooperation, self-discipline, character, and leadership throughout the entire school year. The focus of the program is an appreciation of fine arts through coordinated flag routine activities, while recognizing the benefits of group participation and individual development.

SELECTION

1. Students may try out during spring of their eighth grade year, freshman year, sophomore year, or junior year for HHS Color Guard. Students will be chosen according to those who rank highest in evaluation of performance at tryouts. Tryouts will be judged by a panel of experienced adults that are brought in from outside the school system.
2. Guard members must meet 70% passing UIL Athletic Grade Requirements for participation during games, performances, or pep rallies at each reporting period. When grades in other classes are too low for performance, members must still attend color guard practices and band rehearsals with the team. They must also attend all practices before or after school. If a member fails to maintain eligibility for two consecutive six weeks or fails two classes in the same six weeks, they will be removed from the team.

3. Those wishing to apply and try out for the position of Captain or Lieutenant must have **at least one year of experience** in Color Guard or Winter Guard to apply.

Band

All members of color guard will be members of the Hardin High School Marching Band during the 2021 fall marching season. Each member will have to enroll in band during the fall semester. As a member of the marching band, every member must attend all pre-season band rehearsals and required camps. **(IMPORTANT)** In accordance with the mandate by U.I.L., all members of the marching band will be **required** to have a physical examination done by a qualified physician. It will be the responsibility of the student and parent to pay the fee for the physical and turn in the medical release to the band directors. If the student has already had a physical done in order to be in athletics or Stingerettes for the 2022-2023 school year, s/he does **not** need to have another one done. We only need a copy of the official UIL form filled out by the doctor.

Rules

1. Members must be free to spend the necessary time, as decided by the Directors, both during the summer and during the entire school year for practices and performances. Members are required to attend summer camps, including university held clinics and camps.

2. If a member holds a job, it is their responsibility to ensure that it will in no way interfere with practices, performances, or other scheduled activities of the guard. Conflicts with other school activities require approval in advance by the Director.
3. Compliance with all school rules is required at all times. The student handbook is available online at www.hardinisd.net and in print at the beginning of each school year.
4. Members must ride the bus to games, camp, contests, and other performances. Cases of extreme emergency must be approved by the Directors and Principal/Assistant Principal in advance, no later than Thursday at 3:30 P.M. or the day before a performance. The Directors disclaim any responsibility for members who present letters that are found to be fraudulent.
5. Out of town trips will have a designated departure time, and leave on time.
6. Any student who quits or is removed from the Guard during a school year will not be allowed to try out for Color Guard for the following year. Special permission and approval of the Directors and administration may be granted in cases of extreme emergency.
7. All money-making projects must be approved by the Directors and Administration. No guard member can participate in any fundraising independently without the Directors' or Administration's approval..
8. The Directors reserve the right to add or delete with administrative approval any rules during the year that are felt to be necessary for the good of the guard.
9. If a disagreement arises between the Directors and a team member and/or parent, the matter may be carried to a higher level Administrator. It is

appropriate, however, to talk with the Directors first about any situation or concerning matter.

10. The decision of the Directors will be accepted as final in the interpretation of the rules, and in any conflict concerning conduct, application of or compliance to any and all rules and procedures.

11. Any payment not received upon the due date will result in 2 permanent demerits each day the payment is late.

12. A guard member who accumulates 20 demerits will be dismissed from the team. A guard member is able to redeem certain listed demerits by earning merits as determined by the Directors. (This does not apply to permanent demerits.)

PROBATION

Probation is a time designated by the Directors for any member who has not set a good example as a guard member. Probation may be given for such actions as breaking school rules and irresponsible conduct on and off campus.

During this time a member will not be permitted to perform, but must attend all practices and performances in the uniform designated by the Directors.

CONDUCT

1. A Guard member's term begins upon the date of selection and runs through to the following tryout selection.

2. Members are expected to act as representatives of the HHS Color Guard in and outside of school. Any lewd or inappropriate behavior such as photos of

provocative poses or nudity, smoking (vaping), drinking, swearing or any other profane acts displayed by a Guard member will not be tolerated. **Any such action that occurs in private but is publicized via photos or video or is distributed in any medium (Facebook, Twitter, Tik Tok, Snapchat, etc.) will be considered a violation. Violation of any of the above can be grounds for suspension from activity(s) and/or performance(s) or dismissal from the team, as determined by the Directors.**

3. Disrespect, such as being rude, talking back or giving 'attitude' to the Directors, Officers, other members, the school or its representatives or any other school official will not be tolerated.

4. Members are expected to cooperate with their directors and fellow Guard members at all times.

5. Guard members will be loyal to fellow team members. The member will support and work pleasantly with all guard members. A Guard member will also display respect and adhere to the rules and commands of all band directors.

6. When, because of disregard for rules of Hardin High School, a student is placed in suspension (also DAEP), automatic dismissal from the Guard may result.

REMOVAL FROM THE TEAM

Removal will occur for the following things:

- Acquiring 20 demerits
- Failing two or more classes in the same six weeks.

- Failing a class for two consecutive six weeks or two or more classes within the same six weeks grading period. (Can be any two classes)
- Assignment to alternative school.
- Out of School Suspension or In School Suspension from a disciplinary infraction.
- Any severe action that the Director(s) and principal feel do not represent the Color Guard and Hornet Band organizations in a positive way.

PRACTICES

1. Practice begins and ends at the time designated by the Director(s). Set practice times will be established and will be common knowledge to all Guard members.
2. Members must be on time. This means in place, wearing designated attire, and ready for roll call when practice time is set.
3. Managers will assist the directors in checking for wrong practice attire and assign proper demerits.
4. Members must wear the designated uniforms. There will be no gum chewing, eating, or wearing of jewelry once practice has begun. Hair must be held back away from the face with a rubber band. All cell phones must be turned to silent and put away for the duration of practice.
5. No food or drink (with the exception of water) is allowed in the practice unless approved by the Directors.
6. Members present during the school day are expected to attend practice. If the student is ill, the absence will be unexcused until a note from a doctor or parent

is provided. All absences resulting from quarantine due to COVID-19 exposure or positive status will be excused with confirmation from HHS nursing staff or doctor's note.

7. Members who are ill, but who attend practice may be eligible to perform that week; however, sit outs will not exceed two in one week without written authorization from parent and/or doctor. Final decision to perform will be granted by the Directors.

8. All practices are "closed." No one outside of the team may be allowed to attend practices without the consent of the Directors.

TARDIES AND ABSENCES

1. To excuse tardies, the Directors reserve the rights to insure the excuse is valid and the Director's decision, whether the tardy is excused or not, is final.

2. Excused absences from practice include verified and documented personal illness, death in the family or school functions such as UIL. If it is necessary to miss an in-class practice or after school practice, the intended absence **must be reported in advance**. When a member is going to be absent, the Director(s) must be notified. In addition, when a member is too ill to attend school and will miss practice, the Director(s) must be phoned or emailed before practice. Failure to comply with these attendance rules constitutes an unexcused absence.

3. Students involved in other school activities must make arrangements with the Director(s) in advance. Students may not miss after school practice without the Director's approval. Guard members will receive 5 demerits per practice missed.

4. Only in extreme circumstances should a member miss after school practice. Intended absence from either of these practices should be reported to the Directors in advance. The Director(s) will decide if the absence is excused. Unless in an emergency. **Do not schedule doctor's appointments on Tuesday or Thursday.**

6. All Guard members absent from a performance for any reason other than personal illness or death in the family will result in a zero. Only in extreme situations may a member miss a performance for any other reason, upon Director's approval. The intended absence must be reported at least one week in advance in writing, or the absence will be considered unexcused. The Director's decision concerning absences from performances is final. Performances require a great deal of effort and work from all members and the Director(s); therefore, all members are to work toward the betterment of the guard for the best performance possible.

7. Absence from any other scheduled Guard function for any other reason other than personal illness or death in the family may constitute immediate dismissal from the Guard. The Director's decision concerning absences from scheduled functions is final.

Required Equipment

All Guard members are required to purchase a Flag Starter Bag (\$59.99) and chosen uniform (top, bottoms, shoes, socks, etc.). Each Guard member will be given an itemized list of required equipment for purchase as well

as a list of equipment that they will have access to, provided by the band, and will be in charge of maintaining.

Demerits

If a member earns 10 demerits they will be sidelined from following performances. If a member earns 20 demerits they will be dismissed from the guard.

Demerits will be issued by the sponsor when deemed necessary. All final decisions made regarding violations are made by the sponsor and/or band directors.

<u>Violations</u>	<u>Number of Demerits</u>
● Chewing gum at practice/performances	1
● Jewelry worn during practice/performances	1
● Wrong practice attire	1 per item
● Lack of participation during practice	1
● Tardiness	2
● Negative overall attitude at practice/performance	2
● Disrespecting or not being cooperative with officers/staff	3
● Leaving equipment out	3
● Letting non-guard members handle equipment	3
● Not maintaining equipment properly	3

- Cell phone use at practice/performance 3
- Inappropriate language/behavior on personal time 5
(posted to social media, reported by teacher to sponsors, etc)
- Wrong uniform or parts of uniform at performance 5
- Failure to notify of tardy/absence 5
- Unexcused absence 5
- Leaving practice without permission 10
- Inappropriate language/behavior while in uniform 10

In the event of an absence (both scheduled and unscheduled) the sponsor will require a signed note from the guard member's parent/guardian/doctor/etc, to excuse the absence.

Merits

Merits can be earned to make up for demerits. This will be rewarded by the sponsor, at their discretion. No one can 'hoard' merits, as in collecting so many merits that they can get away with demerit worthy violations.

<u>Actions</u>	<u>Number of Merits</u>
● Cleaning up practice space	1
● Helping your fellow guard member	1
● An act of kindness	1
● Shows a consistently positive attitude	2
● Showing exceptional leadership	2
● Helping band members with equipment	3

- Teacher brag 3
- Attending tutorials in the event of low grades 3
(proof from tutorial teacher required)
- Perfect performance in spin test 5
- All A's 5
- Perfect attendance 5

_____ I have read this handbook and agree to adhere to the policies of HHS and HISD.
I understand any infraction of these policies is grounds for dismissal from the HHS Color
Guard

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature