



HANDBOOK

Mountain View
Winter Guard

2022 - 2023



2023 MVWG MANDATORY DATES

12/06 - Staging

12/07 - Staging

12/08 - Staging

02/03 - Show Rehearsal

02/04 - SAPA Show 1 - Lambert HS

03/04 - Show Rehearsal

03/04 - SAPA Show 2 - South Forsyth HS

03/17 - Show Rehearsal

03/18 - SAPA Show 3 - Creekview HS

04/01 - SAPA CHAMPIONSHIPS



GENERAL INFORMATION

What is Winter Guard?

Winter guard is the sport of indoor color guard. Modern color guard is a combination of the use of flags, sabers, mock rifles, and other equipment, as well as dance and other interpretive movement. Color guards can be found in high schools, middle schools, some universities, and also some independent organizations. Winter Guard is called the Sport of the Arts because it brings music to life through performance in a competitive format. Even with over 40 years of history, the sport continues to evolve and grow. There were more than 33,000 participants at the regional level, and more than 16,000 participants at the WGI World Championships in a recent season.

Is there a prerequisite or audition for Winter Guard?

Previous experience in Fall Color Guard or dance are helpful, but not required. Students will participate in a three-day audition clinic to determine their coordination level, teamwork, coachability, how well they listen to and take instructions and constructive criticism. All students must be enrolled at MVHS and be members in good financial standing of any and all extracurricular activities to be a part of the Winter Guard Program. Members in good financial standing are those who are paid up-to-date on all dues from past and current activities OR currently making payments according to a personalized payment plan to pay off dues owed.

What paperwork do I need to complete for my student to participate?

All necessary forms are attached to the end of this handbook. Since winter guard is a very athletic activity, students should also have an updated physical (especially if you haven't turned one in for fall band).

When are all of the rehearsals for Winter Guard?

The calendar for the season is included in this packet. It is also posted and updated on our Charms website and band website (located below the general band calendar). Please remember that homework, work schedules, babysitting, family visits, etc. are not excused and conflicts are to be avoided. It is critical for all students to attend all rehearsals, events, and competitions.

Communication - What is Charms?

Charms is office management software designed for band programs that serves as our financial and communication hub. An email with instructions on how to log into Charms and how it is used will be sent to all members following auditions. You will be given access after you complete your registration forms, and the database is updated. To get a preview of the system, please visit www.charmsoffice.com. You will have access to our public areas and calendar.

Transportation:

All families will be responsible for transporting their child to and from all winter guard events, including both practices and competitions. Carpools may be organized through parent chaperones when able.



GENERAL INFORMATION

What are the dues, what do they cover, and how much are they?

Winter Guard is classified as an extracurricular activity and as such is not directly funded through Gwinnett County Public Schools. Therefore, fundraising and fees become the financial engine of the Winter Guard. Winter Guard fees cover the cost of arrangement and writing of the music, original drill writing, choreography, individual and group instruction, circuit and competition fees, cost of prop construction and movement to locations, purchase of uniforms, and much more.

Winter Guard fees total \$650.

Additional Costs

- Students in winter guard will be charged an additional \$30 for warmups and a show shirt. If specialized shoes are needed, students will be responsible for this expense.
- Students are also responsible for various sundry uniform items, included but not limited to make-up, tights, gloves, hair needs, etc.



PARTICIPATION FEES & FINANCIAL POLICIES

MARCHING BAND REGISTRATION AND PARTICIPATION FEE: \$650

NEW MARCHER ACCESSORIES (Includes warmups): \$45

NEW GUARD ACCESSORIES (Includes gloves and uniform): \$75

STANDARD PAYMENT SCHEDULE

November 29, 2022	\$200	Payment 1 - Winter Guard <i>Registration Fee</i>
January 5, 2023	\$225	Payment 2 - Winter Guard Participation Fee
February 2, 2023	\$225	Payment 3 - Winter Guard Participation Fee

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Payments can be made by check, cash or Paypal via the Charms website. All Checks are to be made out to MVBA. Please put any payments in an envelope with your student's name and what it is for on the front. Envelopes should be turned into the band room mailbox. (www.charmsoffice.com)

PLEASE NOTE: ALL marching band participation fees, concert band/class participation fees, uniform accessory payments, and/or additional item purchases are **not refundable**. In the event your student quits, is removed from the program, moves, transfers schools, etc, your payment will be considered a contribution to the Mountain View High School Band Association, Inc. and will be used to help recover lost funds caused by your student's remaining dues not being paid. Items purchased through the boosters will not be distributed to the student as these items will also be used to help recover lost funds caused by your student's remaining dues not being paid. If a student quits or is removed from an ensemble, all participation fees that have come due to that point will be the responsibility of the student. Fees paid for one school year do not apply to another school year. There will be opportunities to pay off participation fees by volunteering at certain events during the season (see Easy Money section). You must remain in good standing with the organization in order for your student to fully participate.

The Mountain View High School Band Association is a 501(c)(3) organization. As such, contributions may be tax deductible according to your specific tax situation. Please consult your tax preparer to determine your specific tax benefits.



ATTENDANCE POLICY

In order for all members of the Mountain View High School Winter Guard to be successful in experiencing efficient, positive, and meaningful rehearsals and performances, the following is the attendance policy.

1. **All ensemble members are expected to check the MVHS Band website and/or band calendar often for updates and to know when all events are scheduled.**
 - a. The website address is: www.mtnviewband.org. There is a live calendar with dates provided well in-advance.
2. **All ensemble members are expected to attend all rehearsals.**
 - a. In the event that a member misses a rehearsal, the absence will be categorized as one of the following:
 - i. **Excused Absence:** Following the absence, the member will be allowed to return to the band in good standing, immediately. Depending on the circumstance, the member still may be taken off individual parts/solos, etc. This happens frequently to members who are absent.
 - ii. **Unexcused Absence:** Following the absence, the member will be allowed to perform with the ensemble only upon approval from the primary director. (Do not be surprised if you are replaced.) Depending on the circumstance, the member still may be taken off individual parts/solos, etc. This happens frequently to members who are absent.
3. **Multiple unexcused absences from rehearsal (2) may result in the student being removed from the ensemble.**
 - a. We simply will not allow a student who is habitually absent from rehearsal to negatively impact the experience of others.
4. **An unexcused absence from any performance will result in being removed from the ensemble, effective immediately**
5. **Every absence will be taken into consideration on a case-by-case basis**
 - a. The following are examples of an **excused absence**: sick (with a doctor's note), death of a family member, and wedding of an immediate family member.



a. The following are examples of an **unexcused absence**: not feeling like coming to rehearsal, sick (without a doctor's note), cramps, homework, birthday, work, a concert, going out of town, vacation, any absence where an acceptable excuse is not provided.

i. **A note on homework:** Being a part of the ensemble is not a requirement, it is a privilege. Members of the ensemble are expected to maintain good grades, while simultaneously participating in the ensemble in its full capacity. It is important that members of the ensemble stay on top of their homework, and various other assignments so that a conflict does not arise. Students who miss rehearsals due to homework will be removed from the ensemble. Plan your homework and assignments ahead.

6. All excuses must be submitted to Mr. Pendergrass via email.

a. If you know you are going to be out ahead of time, please be sure to submit the necessary information (via email) prior to your absence, in order to make sure your absence will be excused.

b. If the absence is unexpected, information regarding the absence should be submitted (via email) on the day you return.

i. **A note on communication:** Please CC the guard director on any communications regarding attendance. A parent/guardian may not reach out to the Guard Director without CC'ing Mr. Pendergrass - *especially if this communication is specific to the performer's participation and/or attendance.*

7. All ensemble members are expected to be on time for all rehearsals

a. 2 late arrivals = 1 unexcused absence

b. Any late arrival of greater than 1 hour = 1 unexcused absence

c. The guard director intends to have you OUT the door at the end of the rehearsal time, so please be ready BEFORE or AT the start time. Please be proactive!

8. Students who are removed from the program (or must quit) for attendance or behavior issues will not be allowed to return to the program in the season that follow.



9. All ensemble participation fees, uniform/accessory payments, and/or additional item purchases are not refundable.

- a. In the event a student quits, is removed from the program, moves, transfers schools, etc:
 - i. Your payment will be considered a contribution to Mountain View High School Band Association and used to help recover lost funds caused by your student's remaining dues not being paid.
 - ii. Items purchased through the boosters such as equipment, uniforms, accessories, warmups, makeup, tights, bags, will not be distributed to the student. These items will also be used to help recover lost funds caused by your student's remaining dues not being paid.

10. Students who are injured (and not taking care of themselves), habitually sit out of rehearsal, are absent from rehearsal, or do not perform up to our standard, may be temporarily removed or replaced altogether.

- a. Remember, the ensemble still has to continue, regardless of your circumstances.



PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS & ETIQUETTE

Being a member of the Mountain View High School Band program means that you will constantly be put on display in the public's eye. It is vital for the continued success and legacy of our band program that we always put our best foot forward. The following is a list of some of the specific expectations for etiquette.

REHEARSALS

Students will...

- sit in their assigned sections
- wear all black (if a female member wants to wear shorts to rehearsal, please wear tights)
- be in the correct place(s) at the specified time(s)
- display good sportsmanship at all times
- be attentive to staff and captains
- be respectful towards teachers, chaperones and student leaders
- help load/unload trailers, equipment from the band room, etc

Students will not...

- eat or drink on the floor (exception for water)
- publicly display affection towards other students
- swear or use inappropriate gestures
- wear additional items without prior approval (i.e. dangling jewelry, rings, shoes, etc)
- use cell phones during rehearsal
- harm or intentionally damage their equipment or floor
- leave the commons without permission

SHOW SITES

Students will...

- be positive towards other guards, hosts, adjudicators, etc.
- wear the uniform correctly at all times; treat the uniform and its parts with respect.

Students will not...

- criticize other guards or guard performances
- celebrate the shortcomings of other guards
- criticize adjudicators
- be sore losers
- break "character" before told to do so
- eat or drink in uniform (exception for water)
- use cell phones while in uniform (unless excused by the guard director)



UNIFORM POLICY

Uniforms are an important part of the Mountain View High School Winter Guard and help set guard members apart as we represent the band program, guard program and Mountain View High School as a whole. The uniform is a significant part of the team spirit and show design that characterizes the winter guard. We hope that students will take special pride in their distinction. By accepting a uniform, you are accepting the responsibility of taking care of them.

Uniforms will be kept at school to help minimize long-term loss and allow for periodic and necessary cleaning. All uniform parts are rented and not property of the student. Damaged or lost uniform parts will be charged to the student, just as a textbook or other school property would be. Uniforms will be stored and maintained in the band room. This is where students will pick up their uniforms prior to each performance.

Students will dress at MVHS and wear their uniform on the bus unless otherwise instructed. After performances, the uniform and all its parts must be correctly placed on the hangers and rehung in the correct location. Students will not take the uniform home unless otherwise instructed. Neither the MVBA nor the school provides marching band/color guard shoes, black socks, gloves and makeup palettes.

Hair color and nail polish must be natural colors only unless otherwise permitted.

Uniform Etiquette will be followed at all times. This includes but is not limited to the following:

1. No running while in uniform.
2. No swearing while in uniform.
3. No crude or obscene gestures while in uniform.
4. No public displays of affection while in uniform.
5. No eating while in uniform.