

Smithson Valley High School



2024-2025 Color Guard Handbook/Syllabus and Contract

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Philosophy:

The art and activity of marching is one that combines quality music with an effective visual presentation. Through consistent and positive instruction, it is the goal of the staff to provide our students and audiences with both a highly competitive and entertaining marching band/winter guard shows. We want to teach students that want and are willing to learn. It takes all of us to work together for the Smithson Valley High School Band and Color Guard.

Goals and Purpose:

The goal of the Smithson Valley High School Color Guard is to provide an opportunity for the students to participate in representing their school. The Color Guard is a group that teaches teamwork, performance skills, and 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 for all. When each individual is willing to give up a small part of himself/herself, the group benefits tremendously. Personal sacrifice and understanding the dynamics of a team will be crucial to becoming the best color guard member possible.

Most importantly, membership in Smithson Valley High School Color Guard is a PRIVILEGE not a right.

Rehearsal and Performance:

Rehearsal Attire:

- Outside/Marching Band – White top, any color athletic bottoms, and tennis shoes. NO FLAT SHOES, CROCS, OR ANYTHING BESIDES TENNIS SHOES IS ACCEPTABLE. If you are unsure, please make sure you consult with a director.
- Indoor Rehearsal/Winter Guard – ALL BLACK FORM FITTING CLOTHES for ALL indoor rehearsals unless explicitly stated otherwise by director. No shoes or socks (Winter Guard only or at director discretion for safety)

Attendance:

- Attendance at all SVCG rehearsals and performances are required/mandatory unless stated otherwise by a director. If for whatever reason an event must be missed, it must be communicated 48 hours in advance, or in case of emergency, 48 hours after. Performances cannot be made-up and cannot be excused. In the event of conflict between other SVHS organization conflicts, this must be discussed ahead of time with a director to determine a plan of action.
- If a rehearsal/performance is missed, the "Late/Absence" form must be filled out in detail and absence notes must be provided. The "Late/Absence" form can be found next to the band directors' door. If an illness is severe enough for a student to leave school and miss rehearsal, a doctor note must be provided.

Students are required to dress out appropriately every day. Tennis shoes or guard/show shoes are required for every rehearsal. In Marching Season, we will experience a wide variety of weather conditions throughout the season, so it is your responsibility to be prepared.

Students shall come to all rehearsal with WATER in Camelback. No water jug or water bottle is an acceptable substitute. Ample breaks for water will be given throughout each rehearsal.

It is important to note that marching band, by nature, is a physical activity. There is a great demand placed on students to be able to march and perform a complete show. It is the belief of the staff that there should be proper conditioning on the part of the student in order to facilitate a strong, personal performance and to minimize/avoid injury. Calisthenics, stretching and muscle training may be advocated and reinforced as well. Individual preparation is the responsibility of each member. **Students must wear hair pulled back and NO jewelry.**

Color Guard Class Expectations:

- Development of individual basics including flag, rifle and saber skills and techniques.
- Development of basic movement and dance skills and techniques.
- Development of skills including timing of equipment and body movement.
- Development of marching skills and techniques.
- Full participation in all Color Guard and Marching Band activities including class, rehearsals, parades, pep rallies, football games, winter guard, marching contest, etc.
- As we get into the rehearsals for the season, etiquette for various types of rehearsals will be clearly defined by the staff. It is expected that all members will adhere to the defined procedures.

Should a student demonstrate on a regular basis that he or she does not subscribe to the proper conduct at a rehearsal, the director reserves the right to evaluate the student's performance and decide as to whether the student should perform in upcoming shows. The director also reserves the right to send a student home from rehearsal and request a parent/student conference to determine future course of action.

It is very important that all members of the guard understand that rehearsal is not the time to socialize. When the guard is not collectively rehearsing or setting drill, each member should be independently working on the show's routine.

Conduct and Rehearsal Guidelines:

- All students must follow the guidelines in the CISD Student Handbook, CISD Code of Conduct and the Smithson Valley High School Band/Color Guard Handbooks.
- Only water is allowed during rehearsals. Students are under no circumstance allowed to eat/drink while 'on the floor' unless it from their camelbak, no exceptions.
- All phones/electronics must be left with a director/staff member when students ask to leave during a rehearsal. i.e. to use the bathroom, guard room, etc.
- Students should show proper respect to ALL Director, whether it be the Color Guard Director, Band Director, Color Guard/Marching Technicians, or any student in a leadership position.
- Any negative or disrespectful response to a Director or Leader will result in disciplinary action.
- Disorderly behavior and abusive language, including profanity, racial slurs, sexual harassment, etc. will not be tolerated and will result in immediate disciplinary action.
- Students are expected to arrive at rehearsal 15 minutes prior to the beginning of rehearsal.
- Lateness will not be tolerated. If a student is to be late, a note will be required from teacher, parent, or doctor.
- Missing rehearsal is **NOT** tolerated. If a student must miss a rehearsal due to unavoidable situation, the student is required to notify the Color Guard 48 hours in advance with a phone call and written note from a parent. The student must report directly to the Director, telling another student instead will NOT suffice.
- Constant tardiness or absences from rehearsal may result in the permanent removal of the student's performance spot.
- Any student who does not choose to comply with these guidelines may be removed from the program.
- Note: all instances of disorderly behavior may to be taken care of by school administration at any point, with or without assistance from directors
- **It is the goal of the teachers and staff to provide a teaching atmosphere that is both positive and effective.**

Color Guard Probation & Probation points:

When a student is not meeting the expectations set forth by the band/color guard director, the band/color guard director reserves the right to issue a probation point. The following infractions will result in an automatic point(s):

1. Leaving the group/sponsor/chaperone without permission
2. Unexcused absence from classes/truancy/game/performance
3. Refusing to attend events/performances prepared
4. Serving ISS (automatic 2 points)
5. UIL Ineligibility due to grades (3rd offense will result in automatic dismissal from the squad). An additional point will be given at the failure of any UIL Grade Check
6. Conduct that has an incidental negative impact on the squad
7. Inappropriate use of social media
8. CDC Placement (automatic 3 points and removal from the team)
9. Expulsion (automatic 3 points and removal from the team)

In order to ensure that the student fully understands the disciplinary actions taken under the guidelines of the Color Guard/Band Handbook, the following procedures will be followed:

- If the terms of the Probation Agreement are not met, the coach/director, with administrative approval, may not allow the student to participate in any band/color guard activities or performances until the terms of the agreement are met.
- If a student receives three (3) probation points within one participation season, the student will be removed from the band/color guard and will not be eligible for the remainder of the current school year. They may be allowed to tryout the following school year with written permission from the band director.

Color Guard Room:

These rooms are to be used exclusively for the storage of color guard equipment and supplies that are used for color guard rehearsals. The Color Guard room will only be open before school (8:25-8:55), during advisory, during each class period, and after school (4:30) until the last band/color guard director leaves.

The following are guidelines that need to be followed with the use of these rooms.

1. Students are expected to always keep the Color Guard Room neat and clean.
2. Do Not Eat or Drink (only WATER) in any of these rooms, including the Band Hall.
3. At no time should a student who is not a Color Guard member be in the equipment/locker room.
4. At no time should a student who is not a Color Guard member handle the equipment (flag, rifle, sabre, etc.)

Color Guard:

Color Guard is an athletic activity. Students need to be dressed out and in appropriate attire every day during class. Athletic clothing should be worn (NO JEANS OR SANDALS WILL BE ALLOWED.) It is impossible for you to fully participate in the activity when you are not dressed appropriately. Remember that Color Guard counts as a PE credit each Fall semester.

Grading Procedures:

Grades are earned on the basis of participation and stylistic achievement. The percentages have been broken down into the following categories.

- Color Guard is a performance-based activity. In any performance-based activity, you can either achieve the skill or it needs to continue to be developed until the skill is consistent and able to be performed at any given time. For all fundamental assignments (Quiz Grades), students will be awarded either a 0 – Absent/Missing, 1 – Attempted/Try-Again, or a 100 – Skill Achieved **CORRECTLY.**

1. Participation/Rehearsals (Daily Grade Equivalent) =20%
2. Fundamental Skills Evaluation/Show Pass-Offs (Quiz Grade Equivalent) =35%
3. Performance (Major Grade Equivalent) =45%

Other Basic Expectations

- Students must have two rolls of “*Scotch M3*” black electrical tape and two rolls of “*Scotch M3*” white tape **at all times** to ensure that everyone is maintaining their equipment for all current and future members of the Ranger Color Guard.
- If a returning member has an outstanding balance from the previous year, he or she cannot audition for the Smithson Valley High School Color Guard.
- Yearly Band/Color Guard calendar available on Smithson Valley HS Band website (svrangerband.org) to plan.
- Dress appropriately for rehearsals.
- Fingernails must be kept short and natural to avoid injury. Only clear nail polish is acceptable.
- Hair should be a natural color and not distracting to the educational or performance atmosphere.
- Cell phone will be turned off and placed in your bag while in rehearsal.
- A "Thank You" " Yes Sir / Yes Ma'am" is appropriate after every correction.
- Be respectful.
- Raise your hand for permission to speak.
- Allow students leaders to do their job.
- Take care of, store properly and be responsible for your own equipment.
- Always have your ride home ready/waiting to pick you up after rehearsals and performances.
- Student jobs are **NOT** reason for an excused absence from Band/Color Guard rehearsal or performance.
- Remember Monday/Tuesday Night rehearsals from 6-8p.m. (We would be glad to talk to employers to validate student’s commitment anytime for you.)
- If a member of the SVHS Band/Color Guard leaves the program for discipline reasons or otherwise he or she cannot return to the program.
- SVCG Lettermen’s Jacket Rules are the same as the SVHS Band members- Rules are listed in the SVHS Band Handbook. 1.) The student must have completed 3 years/6 semesters to be measured the end of their Junior year to earn a Jacket for their Senior year. The students must be in 4 years of SV Color Guard/Winter Guard. If you choose not to participate in the SVHS Band /Color Guard Program your Senior year you will not receive a jacket. (Move-ins will still be eligible when they are seniors) 2.) Be a performing member with perfect attendance at ALL rehearsals in the full SVHS Varsity Winter Guard season by the NOVEMBER/DECEMBER AUDITION.

If a Band/Color Guard student has an unexcused absence from a performance/rehearsal, they are subject to immediate removal from the Band/Color Guard Program.

**Confirmation of Receiving and Complying to the
Smithson Valley High School Color Guard
Handbook/Syllabus and Contract**

Student Statement:

I hereby certify that I, _____ have read and understand the contents of this Handbook and Contract. I recognize and fully understand the expectations, guidelines, and regulations by which I may participate, and I am prepared to accept the consequences.

Student Name-PRINT

Students Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Statement:

I hereby certify that I have read and understand the contents of this Handbook and Contract. I recognize and understand the expectations, guidelines, and regulations by which my child may participate, and I acknowledge that he/she will face consequences of violating the context of this Handbook and Contract.

Parent/Guardian Name-PRINT

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

**RETURN THIS COPY TO THE BAND DIRECTORS.
FAILURE TO RETURN THIS DOCUMENT WITH
SIGNATURE WILL NOT EXCUSE A STUDENT FROM
GOVERNANCE OF THE HANDBOOK. ENROLLMENT
AND PARTICIPATION WITH THE RANGER BAND IS
CONSIDERED CONSENT AND AGREEMENT TO ALL
TERMS OF THE SVHS RANGER BAND HANDBOOK.**