



# Olive Branch Colorguard Handbook



Being a part of a color guard program is a point of pride. Colorguard is a performance ensemble that enhances the visual package of our fall marching show. When we receive visual scores at contest, the color guard plays a huge roll in that score.

## Funds

The color guard fair share for 2011 will be \$450. This will help offset the costs of the 2011 winterguard program. It will help with things such as additional instruction, equipment, and travel.

Band Fair Share:	\$170.00
Uniform:	\$136.00
Makeup:	\$30
Shoes:	\$35
Undergarment:	\$28
Windsuit:	\$50

## The payment schedule is as follows:

Colorguard members should follow the payment schedule in the band handbook. Payments will coincide with fundraisers. On May 27 \$100 should be turned in. This will help us with the down payment we will be paying toward the uniforms. Once fundraiser dates are set for the band, I will give you more dates which you can pay fair share. It is important that Payment schedules are followed if you are able to do so. However, if you have a problem following the payment schedule, please communicate with me so we can work with you better.

## Fundraisers:

- The staff will create fundraiser opportunities as needed throughout the year to raise additional funds to cover the cost of the ensemble. These will be detailed in the band handbook. There will also be additional fundraisers for the color guard program.
- Please check into the Kroger Cards. It is a very easy process. For every \$1 that you spend, 5% comes back into the students account. One family may have multiple cards.
- Please note that the student's fair share for marching season must be paid off before Kroger card balances can be applied to winterguard.

## Rehearsal Schedule

- Summer Practices will be 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
  - June 7
  - June 21
  - July 7

## July 12

- **Colorguard Camp:**
  - July 18 - 20 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
  - July 21 - 22 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- **Band Camp**
  - July 25 - 28 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- After school starts, we will practice until 4:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. On TUESDAYS the color guard will practice until 5:30.

### Practice Procedures

Each member should plan to arrive app. 10 minutes before each practice to ensure the proper amount of time to gather all equipment. Each member should be in the proper practice place at the scheduled time. Respect for yourself and your team should be your top priority. We cannot get better as a team if you are late to practices. Excessive tardiness on your part may result in action being taken. If you know that you are going to be late, please call a captain ahead of time.

- Take care of all of your bathroom needs etc before you report to practice.
- We will wear ALL black to ALL rehearsals. Black t-shirts with a logo must be turned inside out so that it does not create a distraction. It is crucial that we all look uniform. This is absolutely mandatory. Clothing should be modest. Short short shorts will not be allowed. Revealing tops will not be allowed. No spaghetti straps. Tank tops with at least a 1 inch strap will be allowed.
- Hair must be pulled back into a ponytail at all practices.

Each girl knows how much work it takes to bring routines, drill, posture, etc. together. Because of this demand, it is important that you come to practice with a good attitude. There will be bad days, but if everyone gives their best for that day, we will be fine. Please do not come to practice to talk. This is very disrespectful to the instructors and your fellow colorguard members.

### Performance Days

Each member should arrive at least 10 minutes before report time. Each colorguard member will be responsible for their equipment being loaded for each event. Each member should have hair supplies, makeup supplies, uniform, ALL equipment, etc. with them for each event. On some occasions throughout the year, the instructions may state that hair and makeup should be done upon arrival. Should this be the cause, those instructions are expected to be followed. If they are not, action WILL be taken.

### Ballgames - Stands

Each member that plays an instrument will be expected to play their instrument in the stands pre-game and 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. Each member will sit with their section during this time. Your ability to play your instrument is more important than color guard, as this will be what determines your college scholarship. It is my expectation each member will maintain a positive attitude about this. Playing your instrument is absolutely more important than dancing in the stands. Fourth

quarter you will be allowed to sit with the color guard and cheer/dance.. However, if you wish to continue playing with your section during this time, you may and are encouraged to.

Members are expected to be professional at ballgames. Anytime you are performing or traveling with the band/in uniform, you should remember that you represent your school and band program. This is especially important during 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. When hanging out with friends/boyfriends you should act in a way that is in accordance with the band and color guard handbook.

Dancing in the stands must and will remain G-rated. Any one that doesn't adhere to this rule will no longer be allowed to dance in the stands and may face further action. Failing to follow the rules at ballgames may result in losing 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter privileges.

### **Equipment**

It is very important that you keep your equipment properly taped and in good shape. If you have a problem that you are not able to fix, see a captain or Mr. Gunn immediately. You may not perform with equipment that is not properly prepared. Do not let anyone outside of the colorguard hold/touch/or play with your equipment. If something happens to your equipment, you may be responsible for the damage. You will be assigned your own group of equipment for the show. Please do not use anyone else's equipment.

### **Makeup/Hair/Uniform**

The 2011 fall uniform, makeup, and hair design will be the responsibility of Mr. Gunn to determine. The makeup we use will also be determined by Mr. Gunn. The only exception will be if a member has a specific allergy to a brand of makeup. Hair styles are nonnegotiable as it is impossible to satisfy 19 girls and all their parents. The hair style and makeup design will be determined based on what the staff believes is the best for the show. All students and parents must agree to adhere to these decisions.

### **Guard Room**

The guard room should be kept clean at all times. No one that isn't a member of the color guard or staff should be in guard room. **NO BOYS!**

### **Rehearsal Facility**

We may be rehearsing in several places such as the OBMS Gym, the OBHS Band hall, OBHS band practice field, and the OBMS auditorium/band hall. Each member should be professional and responsible enough to keep the rehearsal facility clean. In order to keep gym privileges at OBMS, we should leave it looking better than we found it.

If you see trash or a mess of any kind, please take care of it. Do not leave valuable items lying around. Do not leave your clothes, etc in the gym.

### **For Captains:**

The captains for the color guard will be held to highest standard.

This person(s) is not only a leader for the color guard, but for the whole band. Therefore, the captains should maintain the highest level of professionalism. Multiple captains should work together in a way that sets a positive example for the rest of the color guard as well as the band. Captains should not abuse the position they have been given. You are allowed to help/correct other students, respect this privilege or you will lose the respect of the other members.

Should a captain not maintain this level of professionalism and not meet the standard set by the staff, it may result in being stripped of the captain title. Understand that consequences for not meeting expectations may be harsher for captains than regular members.

#### For all Colorguard members:

The captains were selected based on criteria that was made public to all. Your captains have earned the right to be a leader in this group and should be treated with the highest level of respect you can hold for another student. Should a captain correct you or ask you to do something, you are expected to follow her instructions.

#### General Expectations

1. Be on time and prepared for all rehearsals and performances.
2. Be respectful and honest to your fellow guard members and instructors. We will have no tolerance for disrespectful behavior. This includes unnecessary talking in rehearsals. No drama will be tolerated. Each member is old enough to behave like an adult, and will be expected to do so.
3. No gum will be allowed at rehearsals or performances.
4. Participation at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory. You may only be excused if you have a valid "excused absence." An excused absence includes immediate family illness or death. Extreme illness or injury on your own part will also be excused. All other things will not be excused unless you can make a defensible case to the band staff. Please plan your work, church, vacation etc commitments accordingly.
5. All members will speak and act professionally at all times.
6. Maintain a positive attitude throughout rehearsals and performance days.
7. Insubordination will not be tolerated. Members will be expected to follow all instructions from the band staff.
8. All members will maintain a professional student/teacher relationship with the band staff and any other instructor.
9. Each member is expected to follow the rules and instructions from the OBHS Student handbook, the OBHS Band Handbook, and the OBHS Colorguard Handbook. Should a member be placed in ALC she may be removed from the color guard depending on the offense. Being sent to DCAC or suspended may also result in her being removed from the color guard as she will be unable to rehearse with us. I trust these things will

not be a problem. (Please make sure you check out if you are going to leave the school!!)

10. Boyfriend/Girlfriend relationships will not be displayed in band. No PDA is allowed. Keep this in mind when leaving rehearsal and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter at football games.
11. NO DRAMA!!!
12. BE POSITIVE AND HAVE FUN!

### Consequences

Consequences for not meeting the General Expectations listed above may result in action being taken. The band staff reserves the right to require students to participate in physical exercise such as push ups, laps, extra spins etc. In the event that the offence is severe enough a student may have to set out a performance or in the worse case scenario be removed from the color guard and/or band. The band staff may also take certain privileges away from the members. An example of this could be someone loosing their 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter break.

Being disrespectful or dishonest will be considered a serious offence and will be dealt with in a serious manner.

If a member is absent from a rehearsal the day before a contest, she may not be allowed to perform at the contest. This isn't necessarily a punishment. This is simply a safeguard to make sure any mistakes she may make will not effect the rest of the line.

If a member is not meeting the expectations on the field (her routines/performance is severely lacking) she may be pulled from performances.

### Suggestions to make our lives easier

1. "If you can't say something nice, don't say nothing at all"
2. "Treat others like you would like to be treated"
3. COMMUNICATE with the staff about problems/if you need anything.

### Winterguard

All color guard members are encouraged to participate in winter guard. At the present time we plan to have "Merge" as well as the "Olive Branch Winterguard." Specifics about these tryouts and requirements for these groups will be given out later in the year.

Winterguard is completely separate from fall guard, therefore so are funds. However, color guard members wishing to audition for Winterguard should be showing progress toward paying of color guard fair share. Should a member be severely behind in her color guard fair share she may not be allowed to tryout for winter guard.

\*\*\*Note and Disclaimer\*\*\*

*The staff reserves the right to add to this handbook at anytime. Should an event occur throughout the course of the year that requires action but isn't*

*directly addressed in this handbook, it will be added. If this should happen , the students will be informed as soon as possible and the staff will immediately email all parents to inform them of the addition.*

#### **Papers to Fill Out**

- **Colorguard can be a dangerous sport. For this reason, every member must have a medical form on file AT ALL TIMES. If there are ever any changes to the information provided on the medical form, please let us know as soon as possible.**
- **We must also have an information form (below) on file at all times. (Please fill this out at the parent meeting).**

**Please feel free to contact me via phone or email anytime. Thanks so much!**

**Jason Gunn**

**Email: [gunn.obhsband@yahoo.com](mailto:gunn.obhsband@yahoo.com)**

**[jason.gunn@desotocountyschools.org](mailto:jason.gunn@desotocountyschools.org)**

**I have read and understand all policies included in the 2011 Colorguard handbook. I also understand that I will follow every policy in the band handbook as well as the color guard handbook for Olive Branch High School. I plan to work as hard as I can to make this guard line the best it can be.**

**“GOOD OR GREAT?!”**

**“The limit to your abilities is where you place it”**

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Please write clearly.)

**Student Cell:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I have read and understand all policies included in the 2011 Colorguard handbook. I also understand that my child will be required follow every policy in the band handbook as well as the color guard handbook for Olive Branch High School. I will help make sure my child follows these policies.**

**Parent Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Please write clearly.)

**Parent Cell:** \_\_\_\_\_