



CLEAR FALLS HIGH SCHOOL
KNIGHTS BAND
STUDENT / PARENT HANDBOOK
2018-2019

Clear Falls High School Color Guard 2018-19 Handbook

This handbook is designed to give you an understanding of the Clear Falls High School Color Guard Program – our goals, objectives, and policies. Members should read this carefully, cover to cover, and keep it for future reference. You will need to return the attached signature form, stating that you have read, understand, and agree to the contents of this handbook. If you have any additional questions at any time please contact Ron Barnett at ron_barnett@msn.com or Sarah Cole at sarah.cole@email.com

Mission Statement

Clear Falls High School Color Guard is an organization within CFHS where students can perform the craft of dance and color guard with other like-minded individuals.

Its goals are simple, yet diverse. At the forefront is the assemblage of a faculty that is equally passionate about art and education, to provide students with information in a safe learning environment, while producing a competitive production that will be performed in the Houston, TX area. CFHS Color Guard strives to provide inspiration in terms of work ethic, attitude, professionalism, sportsmanship as well as commitment to excellence. And perhaps most importantly, the group strives to train students not only to achieve on the floor, but in the many facets of life.

Equipment

You will be assigned equipment based on your auditions. Lines are as followed...flag line, dance line, weapon line. These "lines" are subject to change throughout the show and season. Each piece of equipment will have your name and initials on it.

Each flagpole, flag silk, crutch tips, bolts, and props are school property and must be treated as such. Any damage to said equipment will result in the student purchasing new equipment to replace the damaged property. Each student will have a flag bag to use daily to transport all equipment to prevent unnecessary wear and tear.

Fall Season

Fall Season is best known as Marching Band. The Color Guard is the dance line within the marching band that also spins certain equipment to enhance the show theme.

We have band camp during the month of August prior to the beginning of school and learn our competition show. We also rehearse after school on certain days during the school year. For our performances we perform during halftime at most of the Clear Falls High School football games. For contests we travel around the

Houston area to perform our competition show against other high schools. This season starts in August and ends in October or November. Students must be enrolled in the 5th period color guard class.

Spring Season

Spring Season is best known as Winter Guard. The season is comprised of all members from the fall season. We dance and spin equipment to a music track of the director's choice. The season takes place in gymnasiums the whole spring semester. While learning a competitive show we rehearse after school on certain days just like the fall season. For the contests we travel around to different high school or college gymnasiums to compete against other schools in our area. The season starts with training in November, while the competitions begin the end of January through the end of March. Students must be enrolled in the 5th period color guard class.

If you choose not to be a part of the high school marching band for the fall semester though want to join in the spring for our winter program as many do then you must be a part of our fall training program. This will be rehearsals one day a week for graining in preparation for our spring competitive show.

Attendance

The attendance policy is simple. You must be at every rehearsal both in-school class (5th period) and after school rehearsals. You must be at every competitive performance. If you cannot attend a performance you will not be a member of the performing cast. We understand that there will be conflicts along the way; with advanced notice these conflicts can be resolved or dealt with. If a student has too many absences from rehearsal that the performer is falling behind in the competitive show, it may result in the termination of parts of the show.

Attendance mandatory:

- *Contests
 - *School year rehearsals
 - *Parades
 - *Performances
 - *Summer rehearsals
 - *sectionals
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- Due to the participatory nature of guard, attendance is required for all rehearsals and performances. The quality of the Clear Falls Band Program is directly proportional to consistent attendance. Absences hurt the individual student and the overall team goal. The following guidelines outline the attendance procedures and policies for the marching band: (All Summer Camps will be regarded as rehearsals) Please do not sign up for any school sponsored blood drives on the day or days immediately prior to rehearsals, games, or contests. (unexcused)

- **Tardiness**
 - Attendance will be taken promptly at the beginning of rehearsal.
 - Students not in their correct spot at the appropriate time will be marked tardy.
 - Tutorials, appointments etc. will not be an excuse for tardiness unless prior arrangements are made and approved. Students will be expected to fill out an excused tardy card at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the rehearsal. Tardiness will be excused at the discretion of the directors.
 - Students who have more than one unexcused tardy shall be subject to one of the following consequences issued at the discretion of the directors:
 - 2nd tardy loss of marching privilege at the week's football game.
 - 3rd tardy loss of attendance at the week's football game.
 - Frequent tardies- consideration for removal of primary marching position or loss of physical education waiver.
- **Absences**
 - A tardy will be converted to an absence fifteen (10) minutes after the start of rehearsal.
 - ***If a student is present for more than half of the school day, they are expected to stay for all after-school rehearsals. If a student is absent for more than half the school day, they will be considered excused from rehearsals.***
 - With advance notice, absences may be excused at the discretion of the band directors. Tutorials, appointments, work, driver's ed., notes/emails from parents etc. will **not** be an excuse for absence. Personal illness requiring medical attention, death in the family or other serious problems will be considered as an excused absence. Students who are continually ill will need to provide a doctor's note releasing them from participation in order to insure the well-being of the student and to reduce director concerns. If in doubt, an absence should be checked with a director.
 - Students who have an unexcused absence will be subject to one of the following consequences:
 - 1st absence in a week – loss of marching privilege for one game
 - 2nd absence in a week - loss of attendance privilege at one game.
 - 3rd absence or more in a week – Loss of marching spot as a primary marcher
 - Regular unexcused absences - Removal from the marching band.

*Please note, even upon removal from the marching band students are still responsible for the learning the show music and pass-offs.

Fundraisers

The Clear Falls High School Color Guard is allowed two fundraisers a season. These are crucial to the success of the program. If we do not fundraise, there will be no color guard program. All guard students will participate in all fundraisers.

Below is a list of essentials the fundraisers will pay for:

Prop materials, show flags, bolts, poles, stoppers, weapons, travel expenses, technician pay.

Behavior

Members of the Clear Falls High School Color Guard are to maintain professional behavior at all times – this includes inside and outside of rehearsal, and competition days. Students will be wearing the organizations clothing so it is very important to behave in a respectful manner. If there is an issue with student behavior it will be dealt with in accordance with school policy. If behavior cannot be fixed it may, at discretion of all directors, result in dismissal from the program all together.

Rules

- Show up on time. Arriving 10 minutes early to the rehearsal space, with everything you need to be successful, is on time. Arriving when rehearsal starts is late. We start rehearsal at the time listed.
- Eat and drink healthy foods all season. Only water is allowed during rehearsal. Healthy snacks to bring to rehearsal include nuts, crackers, fruit and protein bars.
- Wear appropriate clothing to rehearsal. The schools dress policy will be enforced during rehearsals. You need to wear athletic fitted clothing to rehearsal unless stated otherwise by the director.
- You need to have durable tennis shoes for ALL rehearsals.
- Your hair color needs to be a natural color. NO extremes.
- Be engaged. Focus, listen, and learn at every rehearsal. If each individual does this every rehearsal we will grow more than you can imagine.
- No cursing or inappropriate language. This will not be tolerated. Please keep negativity away from our group.
- Be positive. Remember that this is a team sport. If one person cannot perform the choreography like everyone else, the team suffers. Help your fellow members out and be encouraging.
- Lead without a title. If everyone comes to rehearsal with a good attitude and ready to work hard while doing the right thing the entire team will benefit.
- Performances should be a celebration of our efforts in rehearsal.
- Everyone pays guard dues. If you do not pay your dues on time, you may not be a performing member.
- All members attend and help at fundraisers.

- You must keep your grades up. If you fail classes you will not be allowed to perform, putting the entire team in jeopardy
- Students will demonstrate good behavior and proper frame of mind prior to and during rehearsals/performances. Any unfavorable behavior as perceived by the directors may result in the excusal from the activity at hand and, possibly, the band program. This applies to the actions of students in both public/private events and includes social media posts. (per administration decision, the Knights Band facebook page is overseen by the directors)
- Students will treat all property of others with the highest respect and care (music stands, walls, uniform etc.) This includes making only the best quality sounds at all times.
- Since food and sugar could hinder an instruments ability to operate properly, all students will refrain from food, drinks or snacks in the band areas of the school unless otherwise directed.
- Students will be expected to conduct themselves properly at all times. (Display of affection, profanity, temper, foul language, flagrant violation of rules, etc., will not be tolerated. Individual behavior is a reflection of the group. Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area, warming up and ready to work, at least five (5) minutes prior to the set rehearsal time. (This includes the class time and tardies/grades may be affected as well)
- No cell phone usage during all band rehearsals/performances unless usage is the director's instructions. All rehearsals are expected to be extremely quiet so that our time will be utilized wisely. No cell phones are allowed on stands.
- Students will ask for permission to speak by raising their hand and waiting to be acknowledged.
- When allowed in the band hall, either before or after school, students will not disturb any rehearsal(s) in progress.
- Students will not play or handle equipment they do not own without permission from a director. Any damages that incur from an infraction, the owning student will be responsible for any damages made by the other student.
- Due to the competitive level of the band program, students will be expected to take their instrument, personal or school issued, home daily for practice. CCISD is not responsible for instruments left at school overnight.
- Students MUST utilize the restrooms before or after rehearsals only. (This applies to class time as well) Please communicate any medical reasons to a director in advance.
- The use of drugs, tobacco, or alcohol is strictly forbidden. This includes public and private events.

- Dress code as defined by CCISD and CFHS will be enforced. This includes policies regarding piercings. Appropriateness of dress during summer band and after school rehearsals will be handled at the discretion of the directors.
- Students will not utilize director computers/telephones/copiers without approval.
- Hazing as defined by CFHS or CCISD will not be tolerated!!!

Travel Guidelines

- Please understand that all performances and concerts start and conclude at the band hall. All students are required to travel with the band program to all events. As a member of the band, you are a representative of Clear Falls High School and while traveling, should always remain on your best behavior. Your conduct will be such so that it never casts a poor reflection on the school, the band, your home, yourself or the community.
- Due to our extensive amount of travel, the following student expectations and conduct while on a bus, school or commercial, is mandatory.
 - Students will travel to and from events on the bus. Any student wishing to arrive or leave with his/her parent must notify a director via an Alternate Travel Permission Form prior to the event.
 - Students will have all necessary forms (including physicals) completed and returned to travel on any trip with the band.
 - Students will show proper respect to all adults and chaperones associated with the band program at all times. All of our adult volunteers and chaperones sacrifice their time for your safety and provide help in numerous ways. They are a great asset to the band program and deserve your respect.
 - Any special accommodations for travel must be discussed and approved by the band staff in advance of the trip.
 - Students will be allowed to sign up for seating at the beginning of the marching season. Seats will not be changed once the list is set, unless there are issues that administrators need notification. Please choose your seat partner carefully.
 - While on the bus, students will:
 - Remain seated at all times.
 - Sit properly in a forward position keeping the aisles clear.
 - Sit in assigned seat.
 - Keep the bus clear of food, drinks, and debris.
 - Keep all body parts inside the bus.
 - Use only approved type of headsets.
 - Remain silent when addressed by the person in charge on the bus.
 - Refrain from loud, boisterous talking, screaming, whistling, etc.
 - Refrain from any public displays of affection.
 - Be silent when entering parking areas.

- All of the CCISD, CFHS and Knights Band codes of conduct will be enforced at all times. All violations will be reported to campus administration. (see page 7)

Overnight Trips

The CFHS band may participate in events that require an overnight stay in other cities. (Spring Trip, State Marching Contest, etc.) For overnight trips chaperones and students must regard the following:

- The directors shall function as the designated administrator in charge for the activity when an administrator is not present. The directors will make all final decisions on the trip and all decisions must be adhered to by students and chaperones. Frequent meetings will be called by the directors that must be attended.
- All of the CCISD, CFHS and Knights Band codes of conduct will be enforced at all times. All violations will be reported to campus administration or parents may be required to pick up student and take them home during the trip pending decision by administration.
- The use of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol is prohibited. Any illegal student activity may result in detention by the authorities, parents shall have responsibility for all intervention, counsel and transportation. Any illegal chaperone activity, then the chaperone will assume individual responsibility for counsel and transportation.
- All student medications must be checked in with the directors who will oversee safekeeping and dispensing.
- Malicious or willful damage/theft of property by a student may result in the student being returned to the district. Parents will be contacted and assume full responsibilities for damages, financial costs, transportation home and other associated costs.
- All luggage may be subject to search by District officials at any time if they have reasonable suspicion that the luggage or personal items contain contraband.
- CCISD, CFHS or the Knights Directors will not be responsible for students/chaperones personal belongings.
- Please report all accidents, violations, or poor decisions by anyone on the trip immediately to a director.
- In the event of extreme illness, parents may be required to pick up their student at their own expense. This decision will be at the discretion of the director for the student's safety and the health of the other students on the trip.

**Clear Falls High School Colorguard
2018-19 Contract**

I understand that my accepting a position in the Color Guard at Clear Falls High School will require of me the utmost dedication and commitment. I realize that membership in such an organization is sought by many but only a few are chosen. I understand that my role in the organization is crucial to the success of the organization. Not only must I prepare my part to the best of my ability, but also to the degree that I achieve that goal, as it will affect my friends around me.

In order to maximize our rehearsal time, a strict attendance policy must be in place. As a member of the Guard YOU HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO YOUR FELLOW GUARD MEMBERS to be at all rehearsals on time, to be prepared, and to have all necessary equipment and materials. At all rehearsals and performances you must display an attitude of seriousness and cooperation realizing that much time and energy goes into meeting the goals of the organization. You must pass all of your classes and keep up with all of your commitments.

Each Guard member will be expected to attend all rehearsals and performances. Check the attached calendar. By signing this contract you are saying that you have checked the calendar and put these events on your calendar at home and fully expect to be at everything.

Parents, by your child accepting the position in the Color Guard, you are saying that you support them in their endeavor, that you will have them at all functions, and will help them with their commitment to the organization.

Finally, the CFHS Color Guard's goal is to _____. With everyone giving 100%, we can have a great time working together to achieve our goals!

We are excited about the year and look forward to it with great anticipation.

Sincerely,

The Knights Band Team

STOP!!! Go to this link and fill out online!!

<https://goo.gl/forms/xXhrXY6J2f4GNxfV2>

I have read the stipulations for the membership in the 2018-19 Color Guard of Clear Falls High School and will be able to attend all required rehearsals and performances. I further state that I will be punctual at all functions and do my very best to know my part and pay attention in every rehearsal because I owe it to my fellow Guard members.

Parent Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date