



FOOTHILL

COLORGUARD

2016/2017 Handbook

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The Foothill High School Color Guard has established itself as one of the finest guard programs in the Las Vegas area. As we begin each season, we have the tremendous opportunity and obligation to build on this reputation and continue to establish and reinforce the standards and traditions that will be the hallmark of Foothill High School for years to come.

The information listed on these pages is intended to provide students and parents with the guidelines for success within our program. Color Guard commitments can be demanding but you will find that the expectations are both fair and clearly spelled out. Students and parents are expected to have a clear understanding of what is expected so please read this handbook carefully and, as always, feel free to contact **Travis Pardee** at **799-3500, extension 4040** or by email at **tlpardee@ineract.ccsd.net** with any questions you may have.

STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR

There are five general rules governing expected behavior for members:

1. Be prepared and on time, with all necessary materials
2. Be respectful
3. Be quiet and attentive during all functions
4. Keep all rehearsal and performance areas clean and in good condition
5. Participate!

These rules will be strictly enforced.

The consequences for violating the above rules are as follows:

First offense - warning.

Second offense - loss of participation points/parent contacted.

Third offense - removal from rehearsal/detention/parent contacted.

Fourth offense - removal from rehearsal/detention/parent conference required.

Fifth offense - immediate referral to the dean.

Subsequent offenses will result in referral and, possibly, removal from the color guard program.

Insubordination toward instructors, captains, or any adult helpers will result in immediate referral to the dean. The student will not be allowed to participate again until a conference occurs with the parents and the instructor. Any further violation can result in permanent removal from the color guard program.

DRUG/ALCOHOL USE POLICY

The possession, use, and distribution of alcohol or drugs by the members of this organization at any rehearsal or event is strictly prohibited. The Foothill Color Guard will not tolerate the use of alcohol or other drugs at any school sponsored activity (i.e., bus trips, rehearsals, etc.). A violation of this policy will result in automatic expulsion from the Foothill Color Guard in addition to any discipline administered by the Foothill High School administration.

PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION

Public displays of affection (PDAs) are not allowed by color guard members while at band/color guard events. This includes, but is not limited to, rehearsals (both in class and after school), performances, games, concerts, or during trips.

SOCIAL MEDIA

It is Foothill Band policy that all video and audio recordings of the bands and colorguards be kept for private use and not posted via social media for public viewing. Our kids work very hard to perfect their skills and it is the program's wishes that videos showing a product not yet honed to a high level be shared for our competitors or the internet world to see.

FHS Color Guard Facebook Page

The Foothill Color Guard maintains a Facebook page that serves as a place for students and instructors to share information and encouragement. Parents should also be a part of this page to have access to information shared and to help monitor the page to ensure that our students are always displaying proper behavior while online. With that being said, I want to ask all of the parents to allow our Facebook page to be "about the students" and limit your interaction to "likes" and general words of encouragement directed to the entire guard. This is not a Fan Page. As always, any questions, issues, or concerns that may arise should be directed to Travis Pardee or Heather Sanborn.

How To Join: The color guard Facebook page is a closed group and is limited to current members and parents only. In order to be included as part of this page, click the following link and request to join the group. We will be using the parent names provided on the color guard contract to approve individuals who ask to join for security purposes. If your Facebook name is different than the name on record, please let us know through email.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FoothillColorguard/>

Additional Foothill Band Related Facebook Pages

The FHS band program also has Facebook sites that help disseminate information and keep you updated on newsworthy Foothill Band events. These sites can be found by searching the following word strings on Facebook: "Foothill HS Band", and "Foothill Band Parents Support Group". As these sites are both associated with a student-based organization, please keep that in mind the etiquette guidelines mentioned above and address any concerns you have regarding your student to the program director.

FHSbands.com Website & Online Calendar

An updated calendar with all rehearsals and performance events can be found on the Foothill Band website fhsbands.com. Check this calendar often. You can also subscribe to this Google calendar and it will automatically update the calendar on your smart phone. There is a Marching Band calendar as well as a colorguard calendar. A two-week notice will be given prior to the addition of any additional rehearsals when possible.

GRADING

GRADING POLICY

Class/Rehearsal/Performance Participation	60%
Choreography/Written Evaluations	40%

PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

TIMELINESS

A STUDENT IS CONSIDERED ON TIME BASED ON THE FOLLOWING:

1. In band room early enough to know where to be and what materials are needed. Students must be in the band room/locker room prior to the tardy bell.
2. Set up in block/rehearsal area with all equipment ready to use by seven minutes after the tardy bell.
3. Quiet and attentive when class is called to order.

Extra credit points may be earned as follows:

Approved attendance at professional performances	3 points per concert
Approved projects/supervised practices	3 points per hour

Students may earn up to 15 extra credit points per quarter.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Students will start with 100 points per quarter. Points will be deducted as follows:

Violation of rules/non-participation/tardy to rehearsal	5 points
Failure to Dress Out/Missing Equipment	3 points
Tardy to performance/Leave Early	10 points
Unexcused absence from rehearsal/sectional	10 points
Unexcused Absence from a Performance	60 points

An unexcused absence from a performance will result in the student losing 60 points. With very few exceptions, this will result in the student failing for that quarter.

DRESS OUT POLICY

We have a mandatory dress out policy in class and at our rehearsals. Wearing the proper rehearsal attire allows staff and designers to see bodylines while dancing and spinning. The following is a list of appropriate attire.

Class Rehearsal Dress

Tops – Plain, white t-shirt or tank that meets the school dress code policy of three finger straps, no cleavage or stomach shown. Shirts should not be worn baggy because it makes it difficult to see the lines of the body during dance. Jackets will be acceptable outside when the weather requires them but they are not to be worn inside during rehearsal. *No hoodies or oversized sweaters.*

Bottoms – Black shorts, capris or yoga pants; shorts must be fingertip length. The cut of the shorts and/or pants should make them easy to move in. No jeans will be permitted.

Shoes – Athletic shoes and socks are required outside on the field. Inside, students may wear athletic shoes, ballet shoes, jazz shoes, or use bare feet when appropriate. We will be spinning (and dropping) flags, rifles and sabres so think twice before taking the barefoot option.

Hair – Hair must be pulled back from face and up off of the neck at all rehearsals.

Afterschool/Night Rehearsal Dress

Tops – Plain, t-shirts or tanks (white in the summer/fall and black in the winter) that meet the school dress code policy of three finger straps, no cleavage or stomach shown. Shirts should not be worn baggy because it makes it difficult to see the lines of the body during dance. Jackets will be acceptable outside when the weather requires them but they are not to be worn inside during rehearsal. No hoodies or oversized sweaters.

Bottoms- Black shorts, capris or yoga pants; shorts must be fingertip length. The cut of the shorts and/or pants should make them easy to move in. No jeans or sweatpants will be permitted.

Shoes – Athletic shoes and socks are required outside on the field. Once we move indoors for winter, we will be using a vinyl tarp to perform on. Athletic or “street” shoes will not be allowed on this tarp as they can damage and tear it. Students may wear ballet shoes, jazz shoes, or use bare feet. We will be spinning (and dropping) flags and rifles so please be prepared for this if you choose the barefoot option.

Hair – Hair must be pulled back from face and up off of the neck at all rehearsals. Bobby pins, headbands, etc should be used to secure loose hair.

Jewelry – Jewelry is not permitted at any time during performance and should not be worn at rehearsals either. Stud earrings and small necklaces are acceptable for rehearsals, but nothing large and no rings please.

PERFORMANCE/WRITTEN EVALUATIONS

Performance and written evaluations on material covered in class and at evening rehearsals will be given periodically. The most common evaluations will be performance "test off" evaluations of equipment techniques or routines. Students may have "pop" quizzes assigned if lack of preparation is evident. Repeated failure of performance evaluations may result in a change or loss of a student's place in the show.

ATTENDANCE

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Absences and tardies (*including those involving conflicts with other clubs, activities, or sports on campus*), except in the case of illness or family emergency, must be cleared with your instructor *at least one week prior to the rehearsal or performance* and must be accompanied with a written explanation from the parent or guardian. Please note that illness and family emergency will be excused only with a written explanation. Students with a family emergency or illness are encouraged to notify the instructor prior to rehearsal by calling the band room at 799-3500 ext. 4040 or emailing Heather.

CONFLICTING WORK SCHEDULES ARE NOT ACCEPTED AS AN EXCUSED ABSENCE OR TARDY FOR ANY GUARD FUNCTION.

This activity relies heavily on the participation of all members at all times. Regular absences from class or rehearsals, whether excused or unexcused, may limit a student's role in the show or result in removal from the show completely. This will be left to the discretion of the instructional staff and will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

DRILL/CHOREOGRAPHY CAMPS

Our band program invests a great deal of time and money to bring in top designers and choreographers to work with our students in "camp" settings. These days are often long but very productive. Sometimes an entire show will be learned in just 2-3 days. Attendance at marching band and winterguard camps is mandatory. Students who do not attend camps may not have a permanent spot in the show.

INJURY AND ILLNESS

In the case of injury or illness during class time, students will be given the opportunity to visit the school nurse. If the injury or illness requires further attention, the student should be seen by their personal physician as soon as possible to determine if further treatment is required. Students who are not able to participate in class for more than one day must have a medical excuse. The student must bring written documentation of their doctor's recommendation and present it to the instructor at the beginning of class. A student who is removed from class participation due to an injury will be required to dress appropriately and attend all rehearsals and participate as much as possible in light of their injury. The student may also be given alternative assignments. If a student's injury requires

them to be removed from participation for an extended length of time, the student's position within the show may be given to someone else or other arrangements may be made. Our shows are critiqued on how the overall program is presented and even one missing student can jeopardize the competitive success of the entire team. Once removed from class participation, a student must bring a note from their doctor stating that they are released from their doctor's care and are able to participate in class activities before they can begin rehearsing with the group. This does not guarantee that the student will be placed back in their original performance position. All attempts will be made to incorporate the student back into the show to the extent it is possible

PERFORMANCES

Students learn a great deal by performing and by observing other performing groups. Members of the color guard are required to attend all scheduled performances. Students are also expected to be in full uniform, including hair, makeup, and appropriate undergarments as assigned for each performance/show in order to receive full credit. Students who arrive late, or leave early from a performance will lose 10 participation points.

It is the goal of the Foothill Colorguard that all students perform to their ability level. Because student ability and achievement levels vary, students' performance roles may vary. All students who exhibit appropriate work ethic will publically perform during the year; however, students should not expect full competitive performance responsibility unless they exhibit the skill level necessary to successfully achieve the competitive choreography and marching responsibilities.

A student will be removed from performance at the discretion of the instructional staff if he or she does not maintain the good attendance, performance skills, and work ethic necessary to successfully participate in the class.

ALTERNATE POLICY

A student who does not have an assigned spot in the competitive fall marching show or one of the spring winterguard show(s) is considered an "alternate". A student may become an alternate due to excessive absences or tardies, illness, injury, and/or insufficient skill development.

Alternate performers have the same rehearsal and performance expectations as non-alternate performers and must attend and participate in all rehearsals and performances. Alternates who demonstrate strong achievement and consistent attendance will be considered for an assigned spot should one open during the season. This appointment will be made at the discretion of the instructional staff.

All alternate performers will be given a performance role in the Friday night football game halftime presentation.

UNIFORMS

The color guard uses custom designed uniforms for both marching band and winter guard. The cost for these uniforms can vary from season to season. Students are responsible for maintaining and correctly laundering their costume. Any costs to repair or replace a uniform or its parts will be at the expense of the student and his/her family. In addition to the uniform, students may be responsible for the following items:

1. Performance shoes (ordered through the band)
2. Appropriate undergarments (as required for each uniform/season)
3. Assorted make-up items and hair care products. Students will be required to wear make-up during all performances.

INSPECTIONS

Due to the extremely public nature of the color guard, students will be inspected prior to every performance. Students are responsible for the following:

1. Flags should be clean, wrinkle and tear free. Flagpoles should be taped with the appropriate color of electrical tape.
2. Student name should be clearly marked on all equipment.
3. Clean and unwrinkled uniform WITH ALL APPROPRIATE ITEMS.
4. Hair and makeup done as designated for that show.
5. Professional appearance with no jewelry.

Students who fail inspection will lose 10 points from their participation grade and may not be allowed to participate in the performance.

FLAG BAGS/EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

Students are each provided an individual flag bag that will be used to transport their equipment to and from school and to store equipment during travel. All color guard equipment must be transported within the flag bag at all times. Failure to take proper care of equipment or not using flag bag will result in the loss of 5 participation points per violation.

EQUIPMENT FACILITIES

Flag bags and all other color guard equipment will be stored in the Colorguard Storage Closet within the band room. The storage closet is for equipment storage only and should not be used for the storage of personal belongings. Personal belongings will be stored in a PE locker assigned to each guard member in the Girls Locker Room. Members will be allowed access to the color guard storage closet before and after school and before and after all rehearsals. *Only color guard students are allowed inside the color guard closet.*

SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

Students will be provided with flag poles, silks and sabres as required for rehearsals and performances. Students are responsible for any repairs necessary during the school year. Students are responsible for keeping their equipment secure. Equipment should be stored and transferred in student's flag bag at all times. The replacement cost for a flagpole is \$10.00. The replacement cost for a practice silk is \$15.00, and the cost of a performance silk can be up to \$50.00. Replacement cost for a sabre is \$225. Rifles are the personal property of each performer. Students should write their name on the strap of their rifle with a permanent marker. Rifles can be purchased from Mrs. Austin in the Band Office for \$40.

MARCHING BAND REHEARSAL/PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

All events (including trips) are mandatory and failure to attend results in a severe grade penalty so please mark these dates down and keep them in mind throughout the fall. Students who cannot participate in all of the scheduled events should choose an alternate elective.

WINTER GUARD REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

When marching band is finished, the color guard will start "Winter Guard" season. Winter Guard is an intensely competitive activity. Over 300 groups compete in the WGASC and WGI circuits, in which we compete. As with any competitive activity, achievement is based on skill and effort. We are proud of our accomplishments and look to build on them each season. Starting the first week of December, the winterguards will rehearse during class time and an average of six hours outside of class each week. These rehearsals will continue until the end of April. The days and times for these rehearsals have yet to be determined and will be listed on the Google calendar found on the Foothill Band website fhsbands.com.

WINTER GUARD PERFORMANCE/TRAVEL SCHEDULE

The FHS winter guards will compete in local contests in Las Vegas. Generally, these contests take place on Thursday nights and Saturday afternoons beginning in late February through April. More information will follow for these contests in the fall. Additionally, the guard will compete in the WGASC and WGI circuits which includes traveling to California. Additional performances (such as school assemblies) will be announced at least two weeks in advance and generally take place during the school day. As listed previously, all performances and trips are MANDATORY. Students who cannot attend should choose an alternative elective.

TRAVEL EXPECTATIONS

Throughout the year, the color guard will perform locally and in other western states. These trips are a part of the class curriculum. Color Guard students will both compete as a team, and watch other performing groups. Students learn a great deal from these activities so complete participation in all trip activities is required. A trip itinerary will be provided prior to departure and all activities listed will be mandatory. Any deviation from the travel itinerary requires written notification, teacher approval, and submission of any required school district forms at least a week prior to departure.

Students are expected to abide by all school and class rules on trips. These include all behavior policies listed earlier in this document in addition to Clark County School District regulations pertaining to field trips. **STUDENTS FOUND IN VIOLATION OF THESE REGULATIONS WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE TRIP AND SENT HOME AT PARENT EXPENSE.**

FEES

Colorguard can be a costly activity. We make every effort to keep the costs to an absolute minimum and we do have many fundraisers in place to help students raise money. Alternative payment schedules are available and can be arranged with Lisa Austin in the Band Office. Failure to pay fees may result in students not being allowed to travel with the Colorguard or Marching Band. Fees can be paid with Lisa Austin by cash, check or credit card in the Band Office or online at FHSbands.com. Any students with outstanding fees at the end of the school year will not be allowed back for the following season. For a complete list of fees, please visit the band website.

FUNDRAISING

Our fundraising programs are specifically designed so that our students make the maximum amount of money. These fundraisers are offered to allow students to earn money for the trips that are offered this year as well as other required items. Students have the option of earning all the money by fundraising; earning some and paying the rest, or paying in full. Any fundraising questions can be directed to Lisa Austin in the Band Office (799-3500 EXT. 4040 or ljaustin@interact.ccsd.net).

Possible Fundraisers Include:

- SCRIPS cards
- Entertainment Books
- Curb Painting
- Beef Raffle Tickets
- Car Wash Tickets
- Oranges/Grapefruits
- Annual Falcon Band Golf Tournament

FOOTHILL HIGH SCHOOL COLOR GUARD

2016-2017 MEMBER CONTRACT

Student name _____

Grade _____ Student ID number _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent Phone Number _____

I have read and understand the course expectations and grading requirements for Colorguard and agree to abide by its guidelines and contents. I understand the fees and time commitments required to be a member of the Foothill Colorguard.

Student signature _____

Date _____

I have read this handbook and agree to abide by its contents. I understand the fees and time commitments required for my child to be a member of the Foothill Colorguard. I understand that the discipline system will require me to attend a conference with the instructor and myself in order for my student to participate in color guard should my student be referred to the dean. I will provide transportation home or will reimburse the school for the expense of transporting my student home should it become necessary to discipline him or her during travel.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____