

# 2018 Walton Color Guard Guidelines

## Communication Hierarchy –

For general questions: Guard Reps, Pepe or Mickie

For a rehearsal absence: Guard Reps, **and** Pepe

For a performance absence: Pepe and Mr. Palmer

## Attendance Policies -

Attendance is taken at every practice and performance. Parents (**not the students**) should communicate to the appropriate people as outlined above. Families are usually aware of upcoming excused absences (with illness being the obvious exception) and plans should be communicated well in advance. When the staff are fully informed they can ensure coverage is in place and/or adjust their training schedule to benefit the entire group.

Excused absences are: medical, family emergency, school related activity and religious holiday.

Non-excused absences are: anything not covered above, including homework and studying.

Why do we take attendance?

1. Year-end recognition (letterman points, leadership potential)
2. Safety – You are expected to be at every rehearsal, performance and competition. If a member is missing then someone has to stop and reach out to the family to let them know about the absence and to find out what's going on.

Whether an absence is excused or non-excused it is the responsibility of the member to get caught up by working with their captains or guard sibling before the next rehearsal. Showing up unprepared keeps the group from moving forward and isn't fair to the other members.

## Rehearsal -

When school is in session, Practice time is Monday (4-6pm), Tuesday and Thursday (5-8pm). Unlike the Band, the Guard does not meet during the school day which makes our time together very limited; It is imperative we are efficient in how we use it. Excessive absences and tardiness affects the entire group. Practice must begin at the designated time in order to avoid unnecessary extra practices or late dismissals.

## Attire -

Practice – Black, form fitting tank tops, t shirt, or camis, black shorts with spandex or bikers shorts underneath, tennis shoes, and socks. In the cooler months tights or leg warmers can be worn. Ladies- hair should be pulled back off your face and in a ponytail.

Competitions and Football games – Uniform, warm-ups.

Why does the Guard wear all black?

1. It visually helps the Director and Staff quickly identify the Guard members when they are interspersed between band members on the field.
2. It makes the members appear as a more cohesive group

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Why should the clothes be form-fitting?

1. Equipment, especially flags, can get caught in loose clothes.
2. The staff cannot tell if you are using the correct form if they cannot see you which could lead to injuries or learning something incorrectly.
3. Modesty. You are moving and dancing and loose clothing can expose things that should be covered.

## Performances –

Uniforms must be neat, clean and wrinkle-free at all times. No jewelry of any kind should be worn. Any piercings, if not removed, must be covered with skin-tone bandages. Hair and make-up for the season will be decided by the guard staff. Anything worn in your hair must match the color of your hair or be completely hidden (i.e. streaks, feathers, etc.) The more uniform we are in our appearance the more professional we appear.

## Stand and Competition Etiquette –

There are a few general guidelines regarding appearance and behavior in the stands. The Guard sits in front of the Band and is therefore more visible and accessible than other members.

1. There is a zero-tolerance policy for cell phones and electronics. Imagine the TV cameras panning the audience and focusing on the Guard – only to find someone engrossed in their cell phone, iPod, or other electronic device.
2. Family and friends should not visit the Guard while they are in the stands. Everyone is proud of their child and wants to let them know they are doing a great job. Every member has friends outside of Band who want to say hi. Now multiply that by 175 children and you can quickly understand that if everyone had their family and friends stop by to congratulate them or say hi the Band would be unable to function through the chaos. From the minute we march into the stadium until the game or competition is over, we are there to do a job. Encourage your family and friends to let you do your job and not put the chaperones in a position of asking them to leave.
3. In the cooler months you may use a black blanket, black gloves, black hat or ear muffs, black leg warmers and/or black boots to keep you warm. See the theme: BLACK. Not black and some other color, not a pattern, just solid black.
4. The Guard is only allowed clear drinks when in their uniforms and warm-ups. There is a special Guard cooler at competitions and games with water, Sprite, etc. The group responsible for refreshments tries hard to make sure the guard is taken care of and have a variety of things to choose from. Unlike the Band members who are dressed in all black, a colored beverage could ruin a Guard costume.

## How is the weapon line chosen?

Tryout for the weapon line occurs in early summer and is evaluated **all year long**. It is a competitive process and is based upon the possible following criteria:

1. Ability and skill level
2. Commitment to the program as a whole including attendance and attitude.
3. Desire to grow and push yourself with new experiences.
4. Time dedicated to consistent individual weapon practice.
5. Participation in Winter Guard.

## PRIDE Field and the Band Room –

As a general rule, Directors, staff members, chaperones and students are the only people who should be in the Band Room or on PRIDE Field after competitions, games or rehearsals. Parents should pick up their child at the top of PRIDE Field, in the carpool lanes or another family designated spot. Why? After rehearsals all of the students are working hard to get the percussion equipment back into the Band Room, the Drum Major stands are being loaded into storage, the audio equipment and wires moved, and the Guard equipment put away. Any unnecessary activity on the Field slows down the process and increases the risk of accidents. The same thing applies for the Band Room. Fitting almost 200 students in one room is hard enough. The students are working hard to get their equipment put away, return their uniforms and clear out. It is impossible for everyone to have their parent come by to help them carry their things or say hello.