

May 11, 2010

Dear Students and Parents,

CONGRATULATIONS on being selected as a member of the Brazoswood High School Color Guard! We are excited that you are going to be joining our award-winning organization, and we are looking forward to a great marching season!

We have structured learning environments that not only teach performance skills, but also teach discipline, hard work, leadership, teamwork, social skills, and time management. While at the same time, we offer the students the opportunity to have fun and travel.

We hold high standards for the entire group, and continually strive to educate each student by focusing on their individual desire for excellence. We work hard together, and we play hard together. ☺ We, as a staff, believe that the "journey is more important than the destination", and take the utmost care in providing a safe, fun, and nurturing environment for your child. In this packet, you will find all the information you need to prepare for the fall marching season. Please feel free to contact us for any reason.

Welcome to the Buc Band family!!!

Brian Casey
Martin Montoya
Amy Walden
Eric Harper
Brazoswood Band Directors

**BRAZOSWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
COLOR GUARD MEMBER HANDBOOK
2010-2011**

Member Responsibility

The nature of the activity requires that all members be very responsible. Each member is responsible not only for their equipment and individual role in the performances, but for their rehearsal/ performance schedules, fees, and academic success.

Every member should expect to participate in EVERY rehearsal and performance scheduled throughout the season.

ATTENDANCE TO EVERY REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE IS MANDATORY!

Members are not allowed to miss any performances without consequence, whether it is competition days or football halftime performances regardless of the reason. A performance is a performance, and the entire visual effect is compromised and diminished when one member is not there to perform.

Excused absences will only be granted for certain unforeseen conflicts. Excused absences include illness, death in the family, an important religious observance, and potentially some other circumstances. Personal conflicts such as doctor appointments, jobs, homework, etc. are not excused.

If a student wishes to receive an excused absence, the directors must be notified as far in advance as possible. Failure to do so will compromise whether or not the absence is documented as excused or unexcused. Submission of a request does not guarantee approval.

The calendar for the entire year can be found at www.bucband.org and click on Calendar. This will be the presiding calendar, and the directors reserve the right to make changes to it as needed, but parents and students will be notified in a timely manner when changes are made.

The directors reserve the right to replace any member whose attendance is not consistent.

Academic Responsibility: Individual success in color guard is solely dependent on the member's academic success. If a member becomes ineligible, they are not

allowed to participate. Ineligible members are, however, still required to come to every rehearsal. They are still enrolled in the color guard class, and attendance and participation is still being evaluated.

Members should be proactive in coordinating and managing their academic schedule and guard schedule so the two do not conflict.

- * Remember that every member of the entire band program is taking classes just like you. Do your best to make it work!

Conduct and Etiquette Responsibility

The following guidelines have been created to ensure that every member of the color guard carries themselves in a mature, graceful way whether in a rehearsal or performance setting. There is no room in our organization for ladies who do not know how to behave or have poor attitudes.

Attitude: A positive attitude is the single most important thing that a member can bring to the group every day. Poor attitudes are detrimental to the success of the unit as a whole and will not be tolerated. Members who cannot conduct themselves in this simple manner may expect to be removed from the program.

The term "attitude" as relating to color guard activities can be divided into several categories, including:

- Rehearsal/ performance etiquette
- Respect for fellow members
- Respect for those in leadership positions

Rehearsal/ performance etiquette: Because of the high level of commitment accepted by and expected of the members of the color guard, a high level of rehearsal and performance etiquette will be expected also. As the old saying goes "Perfect practice makes perfect". Success does not occur during the performance, but is built every day through refined rehearsals of the members. They win competitions during rehearsals, not at actual competitions themselves. A high level of etiquette will allow the unit to get the most out of each rehearsal and minimize wasted time. These expectations include:

- Members will stay silent when anyone is giving instructions, eliminating the need for the repetition of instructions

- Members will respond quickly to instructions given. A simple raising of the hand is all that is necessary to ask questions, yelling out is not needed or allowed.
- Members will minimize the time needed to get set, running if necessary.
- Members will hold conversations to a minimum and at a low volume, and will stop completely when asked once.
- Members will rehearse with the same energy level as they would give to a performance. Laziness has no place on the rehearsal field.
- Members will bring to rehearsal a focus toward the task at hand. Members will make a good faith to leave their worries and distractions outside rehearsal and aim their full focus to their fellow members and the rehearsal as a whole.
- Members will be ready to rehearse and/or perform at the specified time (dressed out, with equipment)

A member should plan on arriving to rehearsal 10-15 minutes early to get set and set any equipment needed and ensure that they are not late. A member is considered tardy if she is not in her assigned spot in the warm-up block when roll is taken. "Getting my equipment from the band hall" is not considered an excuse for being late.

Note about football game/ competitions: Members will ALWAYS dress alike, from head to toe. Whether the assigned dress is the uniform, wind suit, or t-shirt, and flip flops, every member will follow the assigned dress code for the time.

Respect for fellow members: We are on the same team and our success depends on the sincere cooperation of its members. All members will make a good faith effort to get along with every fellow member in rehearsal and at all competitions. It is understood that not everyone can be friends with everyone, as all personalities are different and unique. However, in rehearsal all members have to work together to create a unifying visual package. Therefore, it is in the unit's best interest that individuals interact in an open and respectful manner to each other, regardless of their relationship outside of the rehearsal. When in doubt: Treat others the way that you want to be treated ☺

It is expected that members will act in a very mature, professional manner. There is no room for gossip, backbiting, or other hateful behaviors in the guard.

Respect for those in leadership positions: It is expected of every member that they follow the instructions of the Instructor, Director, and student officers without protest.

Financial Obligations

New Members: \$580
Returning Members: \$290

Payment Schedule

1st Payment: \$200 due on June 3rd (first day of June Guard Camp)
2nd Payment: Returning members pay the balance due
New Members \$200
Both due on August 2nd (first day of summer band)
3rd Payment: \$180 due August 27th (first football game)

There will be a penalty for not meeting these deadlines. We must have money in order to buy uniforms, flags, props, etc. and that can't be done unless we get all our fees in in a timely manner.

Every student is expected to be up to date with regard to fees. Open communication is the key to ensuring that situations concerning any financial difficulty are addressed well in advance. We are willing to make arrangements with you in payments as long as we know what's going on.

Grading Procedures

Six-week grades will be determined by the following criteria:

Attendance and participation in class and all after school rehearsals
Attendance and participation in football games and marching competitions
Passing off routines

Each member will receive a syllabus at the beginning of each six weeks (this mirrors what the band members do) which outlines what students are responsible for during the grading period and the point value for each criteria.

Important Final Note

The directors of the Brazoswood Marching Band and school administrators will follow and enforce this document to the letter. Each member is expected to read this handbook carefully and thoroughly so all information is clear and understood.

In order to participate in this organization, each member and her parents shall sign a document stating that they have read and understand this handbook, and agree to the commitments described within. If a problem arises, a member must realize

that no exceptions will be granted on the basis of "I didn't know that was a rule", "No one ever told me that this isn't allowed", etc. If you have an issue with any section of this handbook, please contact the directors so the situation can be resolved.

Each member will have the same rights as everyone else, and will be treated fairly and equally. This handbook is designed with all the girls' best interests in mind. Our ultimate goal of growth and success rests on the shoulders of its wonderful members. All members must understand the guidelines in this handbook, and agree to abide by them.

Please sign and return the attached sheet (student and guardians). This indicates your understanding and acceptance of the 2010-2011 Brazoswood Color Guard Handbook.

Contact Information

Amy Walden - Director

awalden@brazosportisd.net

730-7300 ext. 12287

Important Dates

June 3rd-4th Guard Camp

8:30am-4:30pm (break for lunch 11:30-1pm)

July 29th-30th Guard Camp

Times??

Summer Band starts August 2nd!

Wear sunglasses, sunscreen, and bring plenty of water!

Brazoswood High School Color Guard
Member Agreement

I, the undersigned, understand what is expected of me as a member of the Brazoswood High School Color Guard, as described by the 2010-2011 Brazoswood High School Color Guard Member Handbook.

I understand the consequences of my (or my daughter's) actions if I do not meet these expectations.

I also understand that I will be an important part of a team, and this team needs me to do my best as an individual in order to be successful as a team. I am committed to do my part as a member of the 2010-2011 Brazoswood High School Color Guard Program

Member Name (please print)

Member Signature

Guardian Name (please print)

Guardian Signature

Date