

**MIGHTY REBEL
COLORGUARD
2021-2022 HANDBOOK**



PHILOSOPHY

The art and activity of colorguard is one that combines quality music with an effective visual presentation. Through consistent and positive instruction, it is the goal of the staff to provide our students and audiences with both a highly competitive, yet equally entertaining marching band show. We want to teach students who are enthusiastic and want to learn.

The goal of the Legacy High School Guard is to provide an opportunity for students to participate in representing their school and maintain and build a performance group. The colorguard is a unit that teaches teamwork and performance skills, builds confidence and self-esteem.

Teamwork and group activities require that an individual put aside their personal feelings for the good of the group. What is required of one is required of all. When each individual is willing to give up a small part of themselves, the group benefits as a whole. Personal sacrifice is an important component of the team.

In colorguard, we emphasize training in the student's ability to spin, dance, and perform. It is very much so a group activity, so learning to perform together is the ultimate goal (along with having fun of course!).

Most importantly, membership to the Color Guard is a **privilege, not a right.**

CODE OF CONDUCT

All members of the Colorguard are expected to adhere to the code of conduct set forth in the Legacy High School Student Handbook and the Legacy High School Mighty Rebel Band Handbook. In addition, all members of the Colorguard must adhere to the following conduct guidelines:

EXPECTED BEHAVIOR

Members of the Colorguard are expected to be exemplary members of the student body of Legacy High School. This shows in their in-class behavior, their out-of-class behavior, their grades, and their attitude. They are enthusiastic individuals with pride in their school, themselves, and are willing to work as a team. They are polite, respectful, and courteous. Colorguard members are supportive of each other and the Legacy High School Band. Whether they are in the halls, on the football field, at a parade or at a competition, all members of the Colorguard are expected to be kind and polite.

REHEARSAL CONDUCT -EXPECTATIONS

Rehearsals are crucial to the eventual performance quality of the color guard. Hard work at practices will definitely show in performances!

What to expect during rehearsals:

At the beginning of rehearsals, we will stretch individually or as a group, depending on the rehearsal schedule for that day. We will go through some basics exercises, which you are expected to have memorized as soon as possible. The quicker we can go through warm ups and basics, the more time we can spend on learning/improving our choreography.

Please wear appropriate clothing to rehearsal. In order to dance and spin, you will need to wear clothing that allows you to move. Jeans are not to be worn for rehearsals, Please wear pants/shorts that you can dance in.

Colorguard is a physically challenging activity. Throughout the season, we will have abdominal workouts, cardiovascular exercises, and we will also be running. In order to spin and stay strong throughout an 8-minute show, it is important that you are in shape and strong.

What we expect of you is pretty simple: Show up on time, work hard, keep a great attitude, keep quiet during ensemble time, and have fun! All members of the ensemble will be taught and given specific details as to proper etiquette during basics block, sectionals and field rehearsals. The band/colorguard staff in charge of the specific rehearsal will define the etiquette. There are five basic rules that will always be in effect and will be strictly enforced during all rehearsals:

1. Show respect for all band & colorguard staff
2. Follow all instructions given by the band/colorguard staff and the band/colorguard officers
3. Use only appropriate and respectful language, no profanity
4. Comply with the rehearsal dress code: no chewing gum, no jewelry, no fake nails, appropriate clothing (see Rehearsal expectations)
5. Remain positive and congenial.

Any member exhibiting poor attitude or disrespect toward the Colorguard program, procedures, expectations, the band/colorguard staff, or any other member may be placed on probation or removed from the performing colorguard.

If this continues the member may be dismissed from the colorguard. All members are expected to respect and adhere to the chain of command and follow instructions as handed down by those above them in the chain of command. No member is to abuse their power within the chain of command.

CHAIN OF COMMAND:

1. Band/Colorguard Staff
2. Drum Majors
3. Colorguard Captain/Head Section Leader

UNIFORM CONDUCT

Please refer to the Equipment/Uniform Care & Procedures portion of this handbook for specific details on the care and maintenance of your uniform. The reason for these strict guidelines is simply because when we are in uniform we are representing not only ourselves, but also Legacy High School. Our conduct in the uniform is crucial to developing a strong sense of pride and uniformity in what we do. The following is a list of behaviors that are NOT acceptable while you are in uniform:

1. Profanity
2. Chewing gum
3. Jewelry, Fake Nails
4. Immature behaviors (screaming, yelling, arguing, thoughtless actions, etc.)

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF A COLORGUARD MEMBER:

The greatest single factor that will determine the success of any organization is attitude. It takes dedication to reach goals. Students are expected to come to rehearsal with the right attitude of sincerity, concentration, and dedication to working hard to achieve success with their teammates. A good attitude and a strong work ethic is the difference between a winning organization and a mediocre group.

Members of the Legacy colorguard are asked to make a commitment to the program through their time and effort. As a member, you are required to commit to the rehearsal and performance schedule, and you are required to show up on time. You are also expected to follow all of the behavioral rules set by Legacy High School and to respect your instructors, peers, and chaperones.

When the members of a competing group have pride, maturity, class, and style, it shows. When the members of a group are lacking these qualities, it shows even more. Remember, it takes much longer to build a good reputation than to ruin one.

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

All members of the Legacy High School Colorguard are expected to meet the following requirements:

1. Your first responsibility is to maintain academic eligibility. If you fail to meet the UIL academic standards at the end of any 6 week period, you will not be allowed to further participate in the guard.
2. Maintain a positive attitude and willingness to receive instruction and constructive criticism.
3. Desire to be a part of the Colorguard and accept the responsibilities of this performance and competitive sport.
4. Each member plays an integral role in the color guard program. All other activities and appointments should try to be scheduled around rehearsal and performance dates and times. Social plans, dental/doctor/optometry appointments, jobs, group project meetings, and other appointments or commitments of this nature cannot interfere with rehearsals or performances. Attendance at rehearsals and dress rehearsals are not an option. If a color guard member is absent from a rehearsal or a dress rehearsal, then that student will not be allowed to perform at the contest if there is one on that week. If attendance becomes a problem the student may be removed from the group.
5. As with any physical activity, injuries can and probably will affect a few students. Illness may also affect a student's ability to rehearse and perform. A doctor's note should always be obtained in the case of a physical injury. In this case of illness or injury, the proper attendance policies must be used to notify us of an absence.
6. It is the responsibility of the guard member to Communicate with either the guard director or the high school director if the member is going to be late or absent. Please fill out the absent request form found on the Mighty Rebel Band Website.

Members are expected to come prepared to all rehearsals and performances; they must show improved knowledge and ability of the fundamentals and the show. Rehearsals are intended to rehearse as a colorguard unit, individual practice is necessary outside of the colorguard rehearsal time. Any member who does not show necessary improvement and competence may be removed from the performing colorguard until the band/colorguard staff determines that the member has improved to a satisfactory level.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS EXCUSED ABSENCES

Excused absences may include: school functions, standardized tests/placement exams (i.e. SATs), major family events (i.e. weddings), college visitations, or religious holidays. All absences need to be discussed with the band/colorguard staff at least 48 hours in advance and must be accompanied by a parent note or a program/flyer from the event. Please use the absent request form found on the MRB website.

Emergency excused absences will be determined on a case-by-case basis. These may include illness, injury, or family emergency (i.e. family death). In the event of an emergency absence the band/colorguard staff must be notified immediately by phone or email. Asking another member to make the excuse will not be acceptable. Absence due to illness may be excused if the member was also absent from the school day, or if the parent/guardian notifies the band/colorguard staff by e-mail or note. Asking another member to make the excuse will not be acceptable. In addition to band & colorguard rehearsals, all members are expected to attend all academic courses as well. Unexcused absences from academic courses may result in a suspension of the student from that week's activities.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Unexcused absences will negatively affect a member's grade and may negatively affect their ability to perform in upcoming performances or contests. Unexcused absence from performance or competitions will not be tolerated. Any member without proper excuse will be removed from the performance colorguard and placed on probation. A parent/guardian conference may be requested before the member is permitted to continue as a performing member. Tardiness will not be tolerated; repeated tardiness will result in a member placed on probation and may result in the member removed from the performance colorguard. Any member with excessive absences or tardiness will result in the member not being allowed to participate in upcoming performances or competitions.

ILLNESS OR INJURY

1. Due to the athletic nature of colorguard, there is a great demand placed on each member to be able to march and perform a complete show. It is the belief of the band/colorguard staff that all members should practice proper physical conditioning in order to facilitate a strong personal performance and to prevent injury. Calisthenics, stretching and running may be advocated and reinforced at rehearsals. Members are always encouraged to stretch and warm-up their bodies individually before rehearsing or performing.
2. As with any physical activity, injuries may affect a few members. Illness may also affect a member's ability to rehearse and perform. A doctor's note should always be obtained in the case of a physical injury. In this case of illness or injury, the proper attendance policies must be used to notify the band/colorguard staff of an absence.
3. If a member becomes too sick or injured to practice or perform for an extended time, they may remain in the colorguard as a shadow member until they can be added back into the drill or choreography.

REHEARSAL RULES, GRADES, AND EXPECTATIONS

Rehearsal Policies & Procedures

1. Arrive 15 minutes early to every rehearsal.
2. No chewing gum, candy, or food is allowed at any time during rehearsal.
3. Appropriate rehearsal attire is required.

Members must be dressed in appropriate rehearsal attire: tennis shoes or jazz shoes, athletic shorts or pants, and tank-tops or t-shirts. Sandals, boots, jeans, skirts, or any other clothing that limits the movement of the body are not acceptable. Any member arriving at rehearsal wearing inappropriate clothing will be asked to leave and only return when properly clothed, this absence will also affect their daily participation grade. Certain rehearsals may require rehearsal black attire. Members are expected to come dressed in full black while still meeting the requirements for appropriate rehearsal attire.

4. Hair must be pulled back and secure.

5. **No jewelry, or fake nails** should be worn at rehearsal. (Stud earrings are acceptable) Absolutely no rings, necklaces, bracelets, long chains, hoop or dangle earrings, etc.
6. You are 100% dedicated to color guard at all rehearsals and performances. We work as one big family for many hours. Therefore, do your absolute best to get along with all members
7. We would like all members of the color guard to have an enjoyable season. We will utilize your talents where we feel you will be able to perform your best.
8. All rehearsals and performances are mandatory. We plan our rehearsals assuming all members will be in attendance. Birthday parties, work, babysitting, concerts and Aunt Bertha from Belgium are in town so I can't be at rehearsal are not acceptable.
9. ACT and College visits must be done at other times.
10. Please remember if you miss a rehearsal, you may be written out of that section of the show. If you remain in that section of the show it is your responsibility to learn what you may have missed. The color guard does not have time to go back and review/teach with an individual member if they miss rehearsals. If you must miss a rehearsal, you must inform Mr. Gonzales in advance. It is your responsibility to learn all missed material before next rehearsal.
11. A water jug are apart of your band fee and are a must. Members must bring their jugs filled every rehearsal. Sports drinks may be consumed but must remain outside of the rehearsal area and away from all equipment.
12. Show respect for all instructional staff.
13. No swearing.
14. If you have a pre-existing injury that needs to be wrapped, please do so before rehearsal.
15. If you are taking medication NOT listed on your medical form, please inform a staff member before rehearsal. This is very important in the event you would need medical attention.
16. Please respect the equipment and uniform used. **Do not** allow anyone other than yourself to handle your color guard equipment. Any damages must be reported to the staff immediately. You are responsible for sewing your flags if they become damaged.

This must be done before the next rehearsal Please make sure all garbage is removed from the rehearsal facility and/or the bus after Rehearsal/competitions.

18. Respect each other this will only help you to improve.

19. Please be open to constructive criticism. You must be able to separate friendship from professionalism.

20. Please utilize excellent time management skills.

21. Absolutely no cell phones on during rehearsals. Staff members will have their phones on in case of an emergency. Parents please do not call your child on their cell phone during rehearsal. Cell phones may not be on any member's person during rehearsals; they may remain off or on silent in the member's bag (phones do not need to be left on vibrate).

22. Competitions fall on weekends along with some rehearsals. Please schedule trips and free time accordingly. Your full day and evening must be open. 23. Upon conclusion of the season, all members must return all equipment belonging to the school. NO EXCEPTIONS! 24. When we prepare for games and competitions, all members must assist in loading and unloading the truck and the bus.

25. No open displays of affection while in uniform.

26. No Form of bullying will be tolerated. Using the internet to bully or make disparaging remarks about members, staff or the guard/band program is grounds for dismissal.

Rehearsal Etiquette

1. Do not spin while staff members are giving whole-group instruction.
2. Do not move or talk at the end of a repetition until you are told to "relax."
4. If the staff is working with another group that does not involve you, you should be working silently on parts of your show while paying attention in case the staff needs you.
5. Do your colorguard duties (carrying the floor cart, guard bag, music, etc.) without being asked.

6. There is a difference between being given time for water and being given a “break.” Time for water is short and mandatory. Breaks may be a bit longer and are optional.

7. In order to create a healthy rehearsal environment, all guard members are expected to have a positive attitude at all times. Negativity results not only in wasted time and a slowdown in progress, it could also result in the group getting worse.

8. All rehearsal time is intended for rehearsing. Socializing or goofing-off is to be done on the member’s own time. Disruptive behavior will result in dismissal from the rehearsal and will affect the member’s grade and possibly their ability to participate in upcoming performances or competitions.

DAILY CLASS REHEARSAL The Colorguard class meets every day during 7th or 9th period for freshmen. Attendance, participation, and homework (individual practice) for the Colorguard line are just as important as in any other class. Colorguard members must be ready to begin at the start of class. All members will receive a participation grade; this grade can be negatively affected by a member’s lack of participation or attendance.

BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSAL The morning and afternoon/evening rehearsal schedule will be determined by the band/colorguard staff. Participation and attendance at these rehearsals are crucial as well as a part of the member’s daily participation grade. Attendance is mandatory; any absences by any members affects how the rest of the colorguard unit works and rehearses.

ROUTINES AND PASSOFF

Routines will be decided upon by the band/colorguard staff. The band/colorguard staff will choose music for all performances. Prior to each performance a tryout will be held, including before the pep rallies, game features, etc. You will have three chances to pass off the routine. If at the end of the third time you have not performed to the instructor’s expectations, you will not perform at the respective performance. Members that do not pass off routines are still required to show up to the respective performance in full uniform.

SOCIAL NETWORKS/ Media All MISD policies concerning social media (i.e. Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.) will be strictly enforced. Any use of pictures on individual accounts must not include anyone in uniform without the consent of the band director and individuals involved. Additionally, no profanity, negative comments about rehearsals, team members, or staff should ever be posted online. Anyone who fails to follow rules regarding social media may be dismissed from a performance or the team altogether. All team members are expected to represent yourself and your team and the Legacy Band with class including when on the internet. Please also refer to the Legacy High School Band Handbook for policies on Social Media.

DISMISSALS AND RESIGNATIONS

Any member who has been dismissed or resigns from the Colorguard will not be permitted to audition for any following season.

EQUIPMENT/UNIFORM CARE & PROCEDURES EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

Color Guard is a performance group distinguished by the use of props, particularly flags, rifles, sabers or other equipment. The maintenance and care of this equipment is incredibly important. Cost for the use of practice/performance equipment is paid for by the school. If a member is irresponsible with school equipment, he/she must replace the broken or lost equipment. Equipment must be stored and cared for correctly. Equipment should never be lent out, left out, or unattended for any reason. It should be cleaned and handled with care and per given instructions. Should a member pass off his/her equipment to another, the initial member is still responsible for the "fate" of the equipment. Only color guard members are permitted to practice with the equipment. No member should ever allow another person to spin their equipment, even if that person participate(-s -d) in color guard during another season.

COLORGUARD UNIFORM PROCEDURES

The desired goal is that the Legacy High School Band and Colorguard continues a tradition of excellence. The manner in which the Colorguard presents itself can leave either a positive or negative impression on the audience and the other Colorguards. The care of the uniform and the colorguard member's behavior while wearing it goes far toward creating pride and exuding excellence. While in uniform, each member is constantly being observed. The personal appearance and actions represent not only the individual member, but also the Legacy High School Band, Colorguard, school

and community. Each member is responsible for the care and maintenance of their uniform. The specific uniform will be determined by the band/colorguard staff. All portions of the uniform including shoes should be kept clean and neat. Hair and makeup designs will be determined by the staff. All members are required to comply with the hair and make-up design so as to ensure uniformity throughout the colorguard. Any member in violation of the uniform policy will not be permitted to perform or compete at that time. At some point you may be required to wear a uniform that you are not fond of. In this situation it is not acceptable to make negative comments or ask the coach or band director to change the required uniform. Failure to comply will result in the student not performing at the respective performance. Do not call, ask, or petition any band/colorguard staff member to change the selected uniform.

1. Uniforms should always be hung correctly after each performance.
2. It is your responsibility to clean your uniforms at an approved cleaner.
3. Each colorguard member must have their own hanging bag.
4. All uniforms issued to you belong to the Legacy Band and must be returned at the end of the Colorguard season. If they are not returned in the same condition that they were issued, the colorguard member/parents will be responsible for replacement.
5. Uniforms will be worn only to Legacy Band/Colorguard events. No uniform representing Legacy may be worn to any other event.
6. You are never to be in "partial uniform." The uniform is either entirely on or entirely off.
7. Color Guard members are expected to keep their Uniforms in Performance condition at all times. That is all parts of the uniform are clean, together and hung on a hanger. If a guard member "forgets" any part of their uniform at a performance, then they will not be allowed to perform. This includes uniform parts, gloves, shoes, and anything else that keeps them from looking like all the other members.

KEEPING UP APPEARANCES

Guard members are asked to have a conversation with Mr. John Gonzales before any changes are made to their hair length or color. **Unnatural hair colors will not even be discussed.**

PERFORMANCES

Performances are the result of hours of hard work by everyone involved with Color Guard/ Band. These are the moments that should be savored and enjoyed! What to expect during competition days: Competition days are long but are also one of the best parts of colorguard. During competition days, we will typically arrive at LHS fairly early in the morning, rehearse, pack up the equipment, and then jump on the bus to go to the competition. Students will always get schedules before each competition that will tell them when to arrive and what meals they will need to provide for themselves. When we arrive at the competition site, we will warm up and then perform. Afterwards, students will get out of uniform (bring warm clothes to change into!), and eat/watch other performances. We typically get back to LHS pretty late. What we expect of you during performance days: Show up on time, work hard, keep a great attitude, have a great performance, only say positive things about other groups when you're watching them, and have fun!

PERFORMANCE POLICIES & PROCEDURES

1. You must be on your best behavior while at a performance venue. Making negative comments about other performing groups is not permitted.
2. You may not leave the performance venue early unless you have it approved in advance with one of the staff members. As a band policy, students are expected to stay for the entire competition. If a student needs to leave a competition early, they must have the proper required paperwork on file with the school(Trip Change Form). Before leaving the show site, the student AND their parent must check in with One of the band directors so we see who you are leaving with.
3. You may not go anywhere alone while at a performance venue. You must always be with another guard member.

TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Rehearsals begin and end at the listed time on the schedule. If you are dropping off or picking your child up please allow 5-10 minutes for them to gather/put away their equipment.
- Please review the schedule and the attendance policy. It's important that you are helping them adhere to the policy.
- Please come to the shows and support the band/guard. Wearing LHS colors and sitting as a group shows unity and strong support to both your child and our school.
- While at a competition, please do not speak poorly of other bands/colorguards. This reflects badly on our group. Cheer enthusiastically for other teams – all of those students work hard and deserve recognition!
- If you or your child has any questions or concerns about anything as the season progresses please let the staff know. Email Mr. Gonzales john.gonzales@midlandisd.net or Mr. Dojahn steven.dojahn@midlandisd.net if there are any questions or concerns.

DISCIPLINE

1. The color guard coordinator is John Gonzales, who is regarded as a Band Director of the Legacy Band. Members of the color guard are expected to follow Mr. Gonzales leadership and to respect the authority of the position. Mr. Gonzales and Guard Staff will report to the head band director, Mr. Steven Dojahn.
2. Color Guard is a sport of the arts, but still a sport, nonetheless. It may be necessary for the color guard instructors, band directors, or other band staff to discipline a member of the guard, just like a coach would discipline members of his or her team. Examples of disciplinary action include spins, running laps, throwing tosses, arriving early or staying late at practice, and assigning the member additional duties for the remainder of the season. In all situations where discipline is warranted, every attempt will be made to instill responsibility for his or her actions in the member and to

use a form of punishment that will further enrich the member's overall color guard experience.

3. Consequences from not following these guidelines will be dealt with on a case by case basis, depending on the severity and/or consistency of the problem.

4. The head director reserves the right to amend or add guidelines as they become necessary, contingent upon administrative approval.

FUNDRAISING & FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS COLORGUARD INDIVIDUAL FEES & GROUP FUNDRAISING

The Legacy Colorguard program is funded through both individual fees and group fundraisers. The combination of these allows us to run a quality program with a balanced approach to fundraising. It is important that the student and parent understand the difference between individual fundraisers and group fundraising.

INDIVIDUAL FEES -

Refer to the Fall Guard Assessment Page

FUNDRAISING FOR INDIVIDUAL FEES

Both the Color guard fee and Band Assessment Fee can be paid through individual fundraising. Individual fundraisers are setup by the fundraising chairperson of the band booster club. They are available to any member of the Legacy Band who wishes to take part in the fundraisers and are not required. These fundraisers are provided as an aide to both the student and parent who do not want to pay for fees out-of-pocket. If an individual fundraises an amount in excess of both the colorguard fee and the band assessment fee, the overage can be applied toward colorguard supplies, band camp and other band events such as a spring trip. Both the colorguard fee and band assessment must be paid (or fundraised) in full before credit can be applied toward any other band activity. OTHER

INDIVIDUAL FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS FOR COLORGUARD MEMBERS

The fees below reflect estimated out-of-pocket expenses. Your cost may be more or less depending on your needs. You can apply individual fundraisers towards these expenses once your Colorguard fee and Band Assessment are paid in full. The colorguard coach will order these items for each individual through the band boosters. Any of these items your student orders will be reflected on the students Charms statement. Students must pay for these items before they will receive them.

CHARMS The Legacy Band uses Charms to track individual finances. Charms is a CPA approved financial system that allows us to track fees, trips, fundraisers and more online. You can also make individual payments online with a credit card. Students and parents can see complete financial statements for your student online. The website to access charms is: www.charmsoffice.com You may also download the Charms app for you Android or iPhone.

PARENT SUPPORT

The participation of your student in this program will hopefully prove to be not only rewarding for you student but for you the parents and guardians as well. Please help the band/colorguard staff in establishing the proper attitude toward the Color guard program at home. Also, support what your child is doing by attending regular performances of the band and encouraging your son or daughter to practice at home. The band booster organization is another great way to get involved with your child's activity. It is highly recommended that parents/guardians of all colorguard members join and actively participate in the Mighty Rebel Band Band Boosters. The booster club is designed to help students achieve great success. The entire band organization constantly needs people to sew, chaperone, help with equipment, travel, and other miscellaneous projects. The booster club finds additional ways to fund performance groups' needs.

Copy -----TO BE SIGNED AND RETURNED-----

Legacy High School Colorguard Agreement 2021-2022 Student Agreement I have read and understand the information presented in the Legacy Colorguard Guidelines for 2021- 2022. By signing below, I agree to abide by the guidelines listed herein. I acknowledge that by signing below, I am making a commitment, not only to myself, but to the other members of the legacy Colorguard.

My fellow members will depend on me to attend all rehearsals and performances, be prepared for rehearsal, and meet all the other obligations outlined in the guidelines.

I understand that if I am unable to or choose to work or act in a contrary manner to the standards and expectations listed in the guidelines, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken which may include my being removed from the group.

_____	_____	_____
Print Student Name	Signature	Date

Parent/Guardian Agreement

I have read and understand the information presented in the Legacy Colorguard Guidelines for 2021 - 2022. By signing below, I agree to support the guidelines listed herein. I acknowledge that if my student does not follow these guidelines he or she will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action which may include being removed from the group. I also agree to pay the full cost outlined in these guidelines.

_____	_____	_____
Print Guardian Name	Signature	Date