

## Taylor High School Color Guard “Frequently Asked Questions”

### **Q. What is Color Guard?**

Color Guard is an extension of the Taylor Band Program. In the fall, the Color Guard performs as part of the marching band at all football games and marching contests. During the spring semester, the Winter Guard participates in an indoor Color Guard activity, derived from the outdoor activity that is part of the marching band. The students who participate in the Color Guard, as well as any other interested students, get a chance to hone their skills and perform at competitions in a much more intimate setting (high school gymnasium or basketball arena). Winter Guard is one of the most enjoyable and successful programs that Taylor Band has to offer.

### **Q: Why is band or Color Guard important in high school?**

In these uncertain times, we as parents are interested in providing a well-rounded education for our children. High school is one of the most critical times in a student's social and intellectual development. Music is an integral part of a student's growth both emotionally and intellectually. In order for students to succeed in life, they need to feel secure, loved, challenged, and proud of their achievements. Band fulfills all of these needs. As a matter of fact, you'll find many of the best students at Taylor High School participating in the band and Color Guard! That kind of success is found in our program because we strongly believe that:

- Students in band and Color Guard develop discipline, positive work habits, and group skills necessary for success in life.
- Band and Color Guard offer creative and aesthetic opportunities that provide for emotional development.
- A student's social skills, self-esteem, and a positive attitude are developed through band and Color Guard.
- Music is one of the few skills that last for life and improves with age.
- Band and Color Guard teach students to strive for excellence. In a highly technological, materialistic society, we need the special pleasures that music and dance can provide to help us establish the *quality* of life in a world preoccupied with *quantity*.

### **Q. How are the Field (Fall) and Winter Color Guard Programs different?**

The Field Guard (Fall) performs weekly with the marching band. They are used to provide a visual to the music of the band. The Guard must be skilled not only with their equipment (flag, rifle, sabre) but also with dance/ movement. The Guard will often incorporate some aspects of drama and acting, or may play characters in the halftime show.

The Winter Guard program is similar to the Field Guard except that we perform in gyms to recorded music. The Winter Guard has received state and national honors over the last several years.

**Q. Do I have to have previous experience in Color Guard or dance?**

No. Although a background in dance will help your abilities in Color Guard, we work very hard to teach every member at their skill level to help them become successful. The only thing you need to audition for the Taylor Guard is a strong work ethic and the will to do something great! We'll teach you the rest.

**Q. How will the auditions work?**

The two days will consist of basic movement and flag technique exercises. Remember that you don't need any previous experience, just a good attitude to get started. During this time, you will have several opportunities to demonstrate your abilities, experience, training, and attitude. The third day will consist of a short routine in groups to show what you have learned in the previous two days. At the end of that time we will announce the members of the THS Color Guard.

**Q. What should I bring to the auditions?**

All equipment will be provided for you when you come. You will only need to bring the following items:

- A great attitude
- Dance clothing (black preferable)
- Socks
- Water

**Q. When are practices?**

Before school begins in the fall, we have training camps occasionally throughout the summer and a couple of weeks before school begins when band camp starts. The training sessions throughout the summer are designed to be a "come and go" setting to fit with your summer schedule as you are in and out of summer activities. Throughout both semesters, Color Guard members are enrolled in Color Guard class. Through this class you receive your fine arts AND your physical education credits. There are also after-school rehearsals that meet usually three times each week. While there is a large time commitment, the rewards are something that last a lifetime.

**Q: What is Band Camp?**

Band Camp is the first official time the entire band and Color Guard rehearses before school begins. Because rehearsal time is limited when school is in session, we meet before school begins (see calendar for exact dates) with additional staff to help students learn their music, choreography, and marching fundamentals. This is also a "get reacquainted" time for band and guard veterans, and an orientation time for the freshmen. Check the website toward the end of the school year for more information about camp. You will get a calendar in the mail during the month of June

**Q. How much does it cost?**

Color Guard pays dues to offset the cost for instruction, show design, uniforms, and flag making. Members are also responsible for buying some personal equipment that lasts more than one year. The annual dues are based on the number of girls in the guard and our budget for the upcoming season. Specific dues payments will be discussed at the first parent meeting after auditions.

**Q: I have heard that band and Color Guard takes a lot of the student's time. What is the time commitment required?**

The time commitment is probably less than what you heard or expected! We understand that some parents are concerned that their student will become over-scheduled, won't have time to study, or won't budget time well. Band teaches students to budget their time effectively. We don't limit students, because most band students are involved in other activities as well. There have been many studies that show students work best when they are *active* and doing things that *challenge* them and that they enjoy. Besides effective time management, band/color guard teaches our students organizational skills, teamwork, leadership skills, discipline and instills self-confidence. No matter what educational options students pursue in the future, experience in Taylor band and color guard will be one of the best investments of their time spent in high school!

**Q: In what ways can parents get involved?**

What a great way to get involved with your student's education! There are many ways to get involved with the band and Color Guard program. At the first parent meeting of the year in August, we will give you a chance to sign up for involvement in many of the band and Guard's activities. There is never any pressure – it's just a lot of fun and a great feeling to work with students and other parents! We also have positions open every year for Booster board members, in addition to the many committees and event planning chair positions available. We are constantly in need of parent help, and the JET Band program has a rich tradition of tremendous and active parent support. We continually hear our band parent volunteers remark that they have made some of the best friends of their lives through their involvement with band and color guard!

**Q. Who do I contact for more information?**

Please contact Chris Bailey at any time. His phone number is 281.237.9268 and email address is [christopherGbailey@katyisd.org](mailto:christopherGbailey@katyisd.org).