

Northeast High School
COLOR GUARD INFORMATION SHEET
2010-2011 School Year

Name _____ Year in school _____

Home address _____

Do you drive to school? Y N Email _____

Phone _____

Person to contact in an emergency _____

Relationship _____ Phone _____

What is the best way to reach you? _____

Circle the activities you have participated in before:

marching band color guard dance class/team cheerleading sport drama

Why did you join the color guard this year?

Tell us about something that you're really good at.

Tell us about something you really struggle with.

What is Color Guard?

And why does it have so many names? Over the years, the guard has been called the auxiliary, the band front, flags, silks, flag corps, etc. If you ask someone in the military what a color guard is, they will tell you that it is a small unit that is responsible for presenting and honoring the American flag. So, what is color guard?

Guard is about 50% dance and 50% equipment work. Equipment???

Marching bands started out as military units, so modern-day color guards honor that tradition with the types of equipment they use. Instead of American flags and other military unit emblems, color guards use flags of many different shapes, types, colors, and sizes. Rifle stocks and sabres are often used, again, in tribute to our military roots. Nowadays, though, the only limits to what guards use in marching band shows are the imaginations of their designers.

Color guard is physical activity and performance. Guard members are poised, confident, and strong. They are members of two different teams: the marching band unit, and the guard unit, so they must be team players above all else. They strive for clarity and precision as they help the audience to “see” the meaning of the music through color, dance, and equipment work.

So, when someone asks if you're in the marching band and asks what you play, say “I play flag.”

Does that sound like something you want to be a part of? I hope so. Let's get to work!

About Mr. A

Charles Alexander has taught music in the greater Pasadena area for 20 years, and taught Spanish for 15 years at St. Jane Frances School in Riviera Beach. After serving as Broadneck High School's first drum major, he returned to his alma mater to work for 10 years as a marching instructor, halftime show designer, music arranger, and color guard instructor. He has also designed shows, taught, and has worked as a consultant at North Hagerstown High School, Southern High School, and Chesapeake High School. He has played baritone horn in the Westshoremens Drum and Bugle Corps.

Mr. A teaches music at the Monarch Academy Public Charter School in Glen Burnie, and is an Adjunct Faculty member at Anne Arundel Community College. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Music from UMBC and a Master's Degree in Educational Technology from Loyola University. His two oldest daughters attend Northeast High School, and he is President of the Music Boosters.

Expectations

HAVE FUN-if it's not fun, why do it?

WORK HARD-nothing worth having is easy. I expect hard work (which is not always fun) so that you can reach your full potential.

BE A TEAM PLAYER-You are part of the marching band, and your unit, the color guard. I do not expect you to be best friends with everyone on the team, but I expect you to respect everyone else enough to get along. If you're having a bad day, take a step back before you say or do something hurtful that you don't mean. Better yet, step forward and let your team support you. No cellphone or music player use during rehearsals (not even during breaks), except if approved by the Instructor in an emergency.

BE HERE AND BE ON TIME-Your team is not as good as it can be if everyone's not here. Since I work at an elementary school and don't finish work until 3:40, that pushes our rehearsals into the late afternoon. That may interfere with some other activities you might like to try. If they conflict with guard once or twice this season, that may be OK. If they're always at the same time, you may need to make a choice.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR BODY-Color guard is intense physical activity. Don't smoke, drink alcohol, or put any other harmful chemicals into your body. Go to bed early enough to get enough sleep. No gum chewing during rehearsal.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR SCHOOLWORK-Guard is not an excuse to study and do homework. If you do not keep your grades up, you will not be allowed to participate. And, YES, I will be checking...!

STAY IN TOUCH-I will post regular updates on Facebook and by text. Please let me know if you aren't able to attend rehearsal for whatever reason.

