Color Guard members are a visible representative of Monroe Area High School. For this reason, they are held to a higher standard than other students. They are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship while at Monroe Area as well as while away from school. The primary purpose of the MAHS Color Guard program is to promote school pride and unity with the band. Members are expected to lead the student body in demonstrating spirit and support for the MAHS football team in appropriate ways in accordance with GHSA rules and guidelines AND the Monroe Area High School BAND HANDBOOK. In turn, all athletes should treat all administrators, teachers, coaches, parent chaperones, as well as individuals who participate in MAHS athletics with the utmost respect remembering that others follow by their example. Finally, it is also the duty of our guard members to compete and perform with the spirit of good sportsmanship.

Guard members are expected to be a positive influence on the school and athletic program. The rules and regulations of this constitution will serve as a personal guide to help you successfully meet the responsibilities of being a Monroe Area High School Color Guard member. Failure to adhere to these rules may result in direct dismissal from the program.

1. Rules and Regulations
   A. Practices
      • Coaches may determine individual squad practice schedules. All practices are mandatory, and as result, your coach must be notified with a reasonable excuse, if you are unable to attend before the day of the absence.
      • Cellphones and other electronic devices are not permitted at practice and may result in disciplinary action.
      • Missing practices for clubs, jobs, and/or extra-curricular activities is NOT considered excused. However, students with academic obligations (academic field trips) will not be penalized, but documentation must be provided to their coach prior to the absence.
      • Guard members are expected to notify their coach in advance if they anticipate being tardy to any event. Failure to notify your coach will result in the tardy being unexcused. The student must speak directly to the COACH, not through anyone else. Two unexcused tardies may result in a behavioral contract and upon the third infraction possible dismissal from the program.
      • Every effort should be made to avoid missing practices; doctor and dentist appointments should be scheduled for non practice days. Written doctor's notices must be presented to excuse this type of absence in the event of an emergency.
      • Alternates will be placed in your spot for that week if you miss a practice for any reason! This is entirely up to the director’s discretion.
      • Guard members will assume responsibility for any information given at a missed practice or meeting and should take it upon themselves to get this information from their coach or other squad members. This is NOT the duty of your coach, squad members, or team mom to seek you out.
      • Detentions or other forms of discipline referrals are NOT tolerated and will automatically result in consequences. Two disciplinary infractions of any kind may result in a behavioral contract and upon the third infraction possible dismissal from the program.
      • Practices during the school year are Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 3:15pm-6:00pm during August through the first two weeks of November.
      • Practices will move to one day a week after our final competition.
      • Occasional Wednesday practices will be called closer to the competition dates.
   B. Game Days
      • Guard members must be counted present for the academic school day in order to perform and participate in ANY after school activities—this includes practices, games, parades, and competitions. This means that the athlete must be present for over half of the school day to participate.
      • Students are not allowed to hang around at the school without instructor supervision prior to call time on game days. Students must leave campus and return, ready to go, at call time. The only exception is when call time is 4:30pm or earlier.
• According to the coaches’ specifications, all guard members must be in uniform for school and for the game in order to perform and participate that day.

• All squad members are responsible for bringing appropriate equipment and uniforms to each game (uniform, warm ups, equipment, etc). Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.

• **There should be no cellphone use during the game.** Games are our performances! There is NO shouting to parents or friends in the stands. Doing so may result in disciplinary action.

• Guard members are expected to do all stand dances to the coach’s expectations with no exception. Members are expected to follow the captain’s orders on dances at the coach’s discretion. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.

• Guard members are expected to travel to and from away games/competitions on the bus. There are no exceptions.

• **Games, parades, and competitions are MANDATORY.** If you cannot make games or any competition, you should reconsider auditioning. Games and competitions are what the team works so hard for throughout the year. One person missing can mess up the entire formation. Missing any game or competition will prevent the student from earning a Letter, and may be grounds for dismissal. Games are every Friday in the Fall, and competitions are on Saturdays in September/October. Emergency situations should be brought to the Coach or Band Director’s attention immediately by parents or guardians. The band calendar will be given out in April before each season.

• Students may sit on the sidelines during performances if they fail to meet the expectations of the constitution.

C. **Color Guard Conduct**

• Color Guard members are considered school leaders whose conduct is observed closely. Inappropriate conduct in school will not be accepted. Guard members who receive ISS or OSS will automatically be placed on a discipline contract. The member may be removed from the program upon the next disciplinary issue (either team or school related).

• All guard members are expected to display positive attitudes at practices and games; this includes a willingness and maturity to work during practices. **Disagreements may arise between members of the squad or with the coach; these should be discussed with the coach and settled. Once an agreement is reached, all negative comments and behaviors should cease; SQUAD UNITY IS THE PRIMARY GOAL!!!!** Bullying will not be tolerated. If a coach suspects that a guard member is being bullied, a referral will be sent to the counselors, once mediation/intervention is given, the problem will either be resolved or the guard member may be dismissed for the remainder of the season.

• Please be familiar with the Monroe Area Student Handbook and realize that all of these rules apply to student-athletes. Guard members will follow and obey all of these guidelines daily. Failure to do so may result in consequences.

D. **Financial Responsibilities**

• Color Guard members and their parents are responsible for all costs involved in the maintenance of the marching band/color guard program. It is highly encouraged that ALL parents attend the booster meetings in order to be aware of all financial obligations and to keep these obligations in order. **Seasons run between $350-$550 depending on uniforms and shows. Official costs will be discussed at the parent meeting after auditions.**

• Guard members are responsible for the replacement cost of any school property that is lost, stolen, or damaged (uniforms/flag equipment/etc) and for all financial obligations that may be incurred throughout a season. Failure to return uniforms/equipment or pay dues may result in school-related fines.

• Guard members are responsible for the proper care and cleaning of all uniform items.

• Every effort is made to provide opportunities for guard members to earn money to help offset their financial obligations. The guard member must be willing to attend and participate in these fundraising activities in order to avoid incurring more debt.

• **If a guard member quits or is removed from the team at any point during the season, which begins June 1st, 2018, the guard member also forfeits any and all fees paid into the account.**
As of JUNE 1st, 2018, no money can be refunded! This is because money is spent quickly on uniforms and equipment to allow plenty of time for shipping before camp.

- Sponsorship money from local companies cannot be refunded or transferred at any point.

E. Transportation

- For all home games, practices, competitions, and events held at Monroe Area, guard members are to provide their own transportation to the school and from MAHS. Transportation should pick up the athlete on time. Failure to do so may result in consequences for your child.
- Guard members MUST travel on the bus to and from all away games. NO EXCEPTIONS!
- Coaches and parents are not to provide transportation for an athlete to a game or competition. This is a legal liability.

F. Mandatory Attendance Requirements

- All guard members are expected to complete the full season. In order for a show to come together, ALL guard members should be present at all practices and performances! The entire band counts on you! Letters or awards will NOT be given to any guard member who does not complete their entire season. This includes members who quit mid-season or miss ANY games and competitions.
- Every Tuesday in June we will have a rehearsal. While this is not mandatory, it is highly encouraged for new members to attend at least 2 of the three. Dates will be listed on the calendar.
- Band camp is mandatory for all guard members. Vacation is NOT an excuse. Full band camp is July 13th from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., July 16th-July 20th from 9 a.m.-9 p.m, and July 24th from 4pm-8:30pm. Times *may* change. Failure to show up for one or more of those dates may result in dismissal from the marching band.
- Competitions are mandatory for all guard members (including alternates).

G. General Audition Information

- Students in good academic and behavioral standing are eligible to audition. This means they are on the correct grade level, and must pass 3/4 in the Spring in order to stay a member for the Fall season.
- Students must have satisfactory attendance in order to auditions. This means 10 or less absences per class during the semester (days excused with official doctor’s notes will not count against the student).
- Rifle auditions: In order to audition for the rifle line, students MUST have one year of experience on the MAHS Color Guard. Only veterans may audition.
- Rifles will be taught a short routine to perform in addition to the flag audition.
- Everyone must audition with the flag every year.
- Please wear comfortable clothes you can move and dance in. Tennis shoes or some kind of dance shoe are required (NO flip flops or bare feet). For auditions, students must wear a plain white t-shirt and black or navy shorts or dance pants.

While the Monroe Area High School Marching Band and Color Guard program provides flexibility concerning family needs, college trips, and academic enrichment opportunities, it should be understood that game/event participation will be limited when practices are missed. This means being committed to your school, band director, coach, squad, and yourself. Color Guard members are encouraged to communicate with their coach as soon as possible when learning of special family or academic needs that will bring about a conflict. Parents are encouraged to feel comfortable communicating with individual coaches or the band director when needed.

Our Staff is as follows:

Color Guard Coach: Amanda Foley
Marching Band Director: Gerald Dailey
Color Guard Assistant Coach: Carrie Lupcke

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