

# **Porter Ridge High School**



## **2009 Colorguard Handbook**

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## WELCOME

Congratulations on becoming a member of the colorguard at Porter Ridge High School. **Colorguard at Porter Ridge High School is about personal commitment, hard work and mature behavior.** These are the benchmarks by which we measure our success. They will be the expectation for all members of the Porter Ridge Colorguard Program. All colorguard students, colorguard parents and families are asked to read and become familiar with the contents of this handbook.

The Porter Ridge High School Colorguard Handbook is designed to serve as an operational guide for the students, parents, administration and band directors. This handbook will be a systematic approach to the teaching and organization of the high school colorguard program designed to help avoid costly delays and loss of time due to the lack of awareness of policy and procedure.

**Whenever questions arise, please consult the handbook.** If your question is not answered, please contact Mr. Faires or Ms. Tomberlin at Porter Ridge High School. Please keep this handbook in a BLACK NOTEBOOK along with any other important colorguard documents.

## POLICY STATEMENT

In order to assist colorguard members and parents in understanding areas of responsibility, a statement of colorguard policy is herein set forth:

We firmly believe that the student should improve through regular practice. In the Porter Ridge High School Colorguard Program, we feel that when the student has lost the will to improve or make a better contribution to the band; time, efforts of the school, other students, and the community is being wasted by continuing in this program. The happiest student is the one that is improving through regular habits of practice and daily progress. Right from wrong must be discerned as well as a responsibility towards one's principles. **RESPONSIBILITY** is the focus behind any level of achievement within this program. We intend to conduct the Porter Ridge Colorguard in a manner that will facilitate all students in learning and bettering themselves.

## **PORTER RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL COLORGUARD BY-LAWS**

1. Always represent the school in a positive light, whether wearing a uniform or not.
2. Colorguard should be a top priority during marching season.
3. You will display good sportsmanship at all times, including at school, at games and at all performances.
4. You must be in proper uniform at all performances.
5. You shall not lend colorguard equipment to spectators or others; this includes uniforms, flags and any other gear used in performances.
6. If you lose or damage a uniform or equipment (other than normal wear and tear), you will be responsible for repairing it or replacing it.
7. You must execute duties assigned by directors, instructors and captains.
8. You must attend all functions and practices:
  - a. Practices/meetings
  - b. All Football games the band is required to be at
  - c. All contests and parades (performances)
9. You must attend all band camps that are posted by the band directors or instructors.
10. You must possess a good positive attitude at all times.
11. You shall not consume any type of food while in uniform. This includes chewing gum, candy, and drinks, except when released by the directors.

12. You must maintain proper appearance at all band activities.
  - a. Clean uniform, clean shoes, socks or hosiery
  - b. No colored nail polish
  - c. Light make-up
  - d. Shaved underarms and legs
  - e. Apply deodorant and brush teeth (when possible)
13. You must be back at practice or performances at assigned times. NO EXCEPTIONS!
14. If a future absence is known, you must notify your director. Otherwise it will be an unexcused absence. If you are sick, have a doctor's appointment, or there is a death in the family, you are to bring a note from your parents.
15. Habitual tardiness will earn demerits and can be cause for dismissal.
16. Grades will be monitored every grading period. You must maintain a 78 in each class or you will be required to attend tutoring. Tutoring is mandatory.
17. You must pay your fees on time. Failure to do so will lose your spot on the field.
18. SHALL HAVE RIDES AT SCHOOL AT THE SPECIFIED TIME AFTER PRACTICES AND GAMES!!!
19. You must ride in the transportation provided for you, to and from the performances.
20. You must comply with all rules pertaining to the student body.
21. Being disrespectful to directors, teachers, fellow students, band members and students from other schools will not be tolerated and can be reason for dismissal.
22. There is no such thing as ISS or OSS for colorguard members. This can result in immediate dismissal from the squad.

## COLORGUARD PRACTICE RULES

Conditioning comes from hard work during practices and from proper mental attitude and moral conduct between practices. Confidence comes from being prepared and proper execution comes from self-control and hard work.

1. Be dressed and ready for practice at the assigned time. School appropriate clothing only.
2. You must have a black notebook and bring it to all practices.
3. Keep your calendar in your notebook and keep it up to date.
4. Captains must get approval from the directors before calling or canceling a practice.
5. When your captains start practice, give your undivided attention and respond immediately and appropriately without diverting attention elsewhere. Remember, the time we have for practice is valuable, so don't waste it.
6. NEVER leave without permission.
7. Keep a neat appearance with proper apparel including, Tennis or Guard Shoes, Hair in the proper fashion, no jewelry, nails cut short.
8. NO GUM-----EVER!!!
9. Move quickly to get in position for a change in formation, or routine
10. Don't require repeated criticism or correction for the same mistakes. Continued repetition and proper execution forms correct habits.
11. When group activity is stopped to correct one individual, all should pay close attention in order that you will not require the same correction.
12. No cliques, no complaining, no criticizing, no jealousy, no egotism, no envy, no alibis. Earn the respect of others and you will have your own self-respect.
13. No bad language will be tolerated.
14. Work hard to improve yourself. Be serious, but have fun without clowning around.
15. Remain at attention until called at ease.

## **COLORGUARD DEMERIT SYSTEM**

Demerits will be given for violations of the by-laws at the discretion of the sponsor/director. If a guard member's total demerits reach 30, she will be benched and given two weeks to earn those demerits back by performing extra duties. (see instructors for details if this happens)

### **EXCUSED ABSENCES**

1. Death in the family
2. Illness (note required from doctor)
3. School Function – pre-approved by directors only

### **DEMERITS**

1. Failure to comply with rules applying to student body.....15
2. Not attending Practices, Performances or Parades.....15
3. Disrespectful attitude.....10
4. Tardy to practice or performances.....10
5. Leaving practice early without director's approval.....10
6. Not executing duties assigned by captain/instructor/directors.....5
7. Dirty or unkept uniform and shoes.....5
8. Late from 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter break.....5
9. Excessive talking, complaining or gossiping.....5
10. Chewing gum during activities.....5
11. Jewelry worn during activities.....5
12. Colored nail polish during performances (may wear clear).....5
13. Hair not worn in approved fashion for performances.....5
14. Failure to pay monies on time.....5

No excused absences from games or performances allowed before you are dismissed from the squad. Three unexcused tardies are considered an absence. Additional demerits or benching will be assigned at the director's discretion for disciplinary problems. Benching for disciplinary reasons will consist of attending performances in uniform and sitting with the directors.

## **POINTS FOR SUCCESS!**

1. You, as a colorguard member, must stand behind your directors/instructors and band 100%!
2. Have a “WE CAN WIN” attitude at all times!
3. Colorguard members should know what marching competitions are all about and learn the finer points. Ask an older member or another band member...they can tell you all about it!
4. Colorguard members HAVE to be very mature. The band will in turn, respect you more if you don't talk back, giggle or have little concern for the entire team!
5. REMEMBER **ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS!**  
Don't just say you are going to do something, show us that you are and that you care!
6. Check yourself for good grooming habits: uniform is neat, clean and pressed, hair is clean, no jewelry, spotless shoes, etc...

## **COLORGUARD CONDUCT**

1. UNIFORM DRESS. Remember that you are being watched as a representative of your school
2. Your appearance must be immaculate and stay that way throughout the performances and/or game.
3. BIG NEGATIVES. NEVER – Chew gum, smoke, flirt, gripe, act silly, be stuck-up, gossip, be sarcastic to anyone, disturb others.

In general, to be a good colorguard, you must be trained well and practice, practice, practice to keep it all together. TEAMWORK and cooperation among all members is most important.

## **COMMITMENT**

Membership in any organization requires a definite commitment from its constituents. Successful band programs require thousands of hours of work from each student. It is important for students to understand the necessity of time management. Students should take caution when becoming involved in multiple organizations and activities. Although it is very admirable to be involved in many different activities, it is wrong for any organization to lower its standards because you have overcommitted yourself. Making wise choices based on your time, talents and interests is a vital part of becoming an adult. We also understand that you have homework to complete on a nightly basis, however, you should consider managing time wisely before practice begins so that you may be attendance for all rehearsals. The calendar set forth in this handbook will allow you to make the wise decisions about time management. Please make sure you budget your time wisely as your contribution to the Porter Ridge Band program is paramount.

## **COLORGUARD/BAND FEES**

Colorguard/Band fees are a way to keep the marching band running throughout the season. It is the responsibility of all band/colorguard members to pay fees on time so that we may operate as an organization. Here are the items that the bulk of band fees cover:

- Instructors (not band directors)
- Flag material – we make our own flags to keep costs down
- Transportation – this is **EXTREMELY EXPENSIVE**
- Uniforms
- Props for the show

The cost of the colorguard/band fee for 2009 is \$200. This may be paid all at once or in monthly installments. If the fee is not paid for by the end of band camp, then this will be cause for dismissal from the colorguard. We realize in tough economic times, this may seem extreme, but we must continue to operate our organization as well. If there are serious financial problems, please contact Mr. Faires or Ms. Tomberlin personally so that we may assist you with fee payment.













**PORTER RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL COLORGUARD CONTRACT**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Father/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mother/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENT AGREEMENT**

**I have read the handbook for the Porter Ridge High School Colorguard. I understand that as a member of the band program, it is my responsibility to practice all routines for performances, to attend performances, to help others when I am able, and to contribute to the best of my ability to the overall success of the band. I will follow all rules and policies set forth in the Porter Ridge High School Colorguard Handbook. I understand that failure to follow these duties and expectations will result in demerits, loss of privileges within the colorguard, parent contact, administrative action, and possible removal from the band program.**

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT AGREEMENT**

**I have read the handbook for the Porter Ridge High School Band. I understand that as a “Band Parent” it is my responsibility to encourage home practice on a regular basis, attend performances, and offer assistance with fundraising or chaperoning when my schedule allows. I agree to the policies and procedures set forth in the Porter Ridge High School Colorguard handbook as a means for an overall successful program. I also agree to encourage my band student to accept the responsibilities of being a “good colorguard member” and understand that I may be contacted by Mr. Faires or Ms. Tomberlin with praise or concern.**

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

