



South Milwaukee High School
Rocket Marching Band
COLOR GUARD
Handbook

Last revised 7/19/2026

To be **GOOD**, practice until you get it right.
To be **GREAT**, practice until you can't get it wrong!
Marching - The Sport of the Arts!

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Activity Expectations

Parents/Legal Guardians will be expected to provide accurate demographic and emergency contact information. In addition, students will have the following expectations.

Rehearsal Requirements

1. All color guard members are required to be in attendance for every rehearsal unless excused by a parent (18-year old students may excuse themselves) - see section on [Attendance](#).
2. Be quiet when directions are being given and follow instructions.
3. Members must come to rehearsal prepared with the following items.
 - Equipment, if school property has been checked out
 - Appropriate clothing (see #4 for details)
 - Bring a water bottle that can be refilled
 - Drill charts and other instructions. Students who chronically come without materials may be charged for multiple copies.
 - Other items may be required and will be announced by the instructors, as needed.
4. Appropriate clothing is essential, and students must come prepared for any weather. In general, clothing should be light, loose fitting and comfortable. The following clothing guidelines will be strictly enforced.
 - Color Guard members may not wear jeans - please wear clothing that allows for free comfortable movement.
 - No wide leg pants or pants that drag on the ground.
 - Athletic shoes and socks must be worn - no sandals of any kind - no bare feet outside
 - Always come prepared for whatever the outside temperature may be - dress in layers, so you can remove or put on layers if necessary as the weather may change during the rehearsal. We will be outside for most rehearsals except during inclement weather.
5. Cell phones and other electronic devices must be put away during rehearsal time.

Performance Requirements

1. Attendance for all performances is mandatory. When members are not there, the position they hold cannot be filled. Please do not schedule conflicts with performances.
2. Carrying cell phones or other electronic devices when in uniform will not be allowed during any performance.
3. Members must come to each performance prepared as follows.
 - Be in full uniform
 - Have all performance equipment
 - Have hair/make-up done

Attendance

In order for performances to be successful, we must have full participation in rehearsals. Since we learn new drills at every rehearsal, it is important that attendance is made a priority. Attendance is mandatory for all performances. Please check the schedule carefully, and make sure you are available for all performance dates. Work will not be considered an

excused absence for either rehearsals or performances. School functions take precedence. If you are having work conflicts and need a letter for your work supervisor, please contact the Color Guard Advisor.

Conflicts that do arise due to emergencies or family conflicts should be communicated by the parents/students to the Color Guard Advisor. Students who are 18 years of age, may report their own absences. Students should not send messages with other students. Excessive excused or unexcused absences may result in dismissal from the group at the discretion of the Color Guard Advisor.

All rehearsals/performances are required. Excessive absences (excused or unexcused) may be grounds for dismissal from the group. All absences must be communicated by a parent/guardian to the Color Guard Advisor (in advance if possible), unless the student is 18 years of age.

Color Guard Tryouts

Participation in the Color Guard may be based on a tryout system. The Color Guard Advisor reserves the right to hold individual or group tryouts to determine abilities. The final decision will be based on need and the ability to learn needed skills.

Communication

The group will keep all current schedules, fundraising information, forms, announcements, and other important information updated on the Color Guard website. Communication will be sent to students and parents through ParentSquare.

While we encourage members and their families to follow us on [Facebook](#) at SM Rocket Marching Band and on the SM Rocket Marching Band and South Milwaukee Color Guard Instagram, these will not be used as a primary source of communication.

Discipline

Failure to participate appropriately, or to follow school policies, may result in disciplinary action either by the Color Guard Advisor, the High School Activities & Athletics Coordinator, or a High School administrator depending on the severity of the situation. All school policies outlined in the [High School Student Handbook](#) apply at all times.

Eligibility

Color Guard is a co-curricular program. Students are eligible to participate if they meet all academic and attendance requirements as outlined in the [High School Student Handbook](#).

Fundraising

If fund raising efforts take place, all members are required to participate or do a payout as established by the Color Guard Advisor.

Health Information

Color Guard activities are considered high aerobic and students must keep themselves in appropriate physical condition to be able to fully participate. Students with medical

conditions, or who need regularly scheduled medications, that may be affected by this activity should report those conditions/medications to the Color Guard Advisor.

General guidelines to follow for rehearsal and performance conditions are as follows:

- Dehydration can be a serious problem in any weather, especially when it gets warm. Students should always make sure they are appropriately hydrated BEFORE, DURING, and AFTER every rehearsal and performance. Drink water (sports drinks are OK) to keep properly hydrated. Stay away from sugar drinks.
- Never practice on an empty stomach. Your body needs enough fuel to give you the energy you need. Eat healthy protein rich food before any rehearsal or performance.
- All students should make sure to come prepared with sunscreen for band camp days, and insect repellent especially for evening rehearsals during the warm weather.
- The Color Guard Advisor will take all necessary precautions to make sure students are safe in all weather conditions.

Equipment Care

The school will provide all Color Guard equipment. Students will be held fully responsible for any and all equipment issued to them. Careless handling of school property ending in damage, or failure to return assigned equipment, may result in the student being fined for the replacement cost of that item.

Schedules

All schedules are subject to change in date, time, or location at any time. When new schedules are made available throughout the season, please make sure to check them carefully for rehearsal or performance changes, so you have the most up-to-date information. All schedules are posted and regularly updated on the Color Guard Google website.

School Policies

All school policies in the current High School Student Handbook are in effect at all times. The Student Handbook is available to view on the [High School website](#).

Uniform Care

Color Guard uniforms will vary each year. Details will be provided at the beginning of each season, which may require a personal cost to the student, or possible fundraising to cover the cost.

Staff

The Color Guard is a co-curricular group that performs with the curricular marching band.

The 2026 staff include:

- Ryan Maddix, Head Band Director
- Adam Murphy, Percussion Instructor
- Gail Kablau, Color Guard Advisor
- Abi Lillie, Color Guard Instructor