

Dear Guard Candidate and Parents,

Thank you for considering becoming a member of the AHS Color Guard for the 2026-2027 School Year. The organization has a strong history and continues to strive for excellence each year.

Below is a list of items provided in this audition packet. Please read through ALL of this packet so that you truly understand the commitment, tradition, and expectations of this organization.

- Try-Out Clinic information and requirements
- Abilene High Color Guard Program and Cost Information
- Summer/Fall List of Important Dates, Events, and Times
- Membership application
- FAQ page

In addition to the information provided, please reference the following documents found online for information on auditions and general procedures:

- AISD Student Code of Conduct
- AHS Band Website [www.eagleband.com](http://www.eagleband.com)
- AHS Band Google Calendar

I hope your candidate has the opportunity to meet new people, experience hard-work and push themselves to new limits, regardless of the outcome.

Thank you again for becoming a part of this tradition of excellence!

Sincerely,

*Paula Findley*

Paula Findley  
AHS Color Guard Director  
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Special Education -Resource Teacher  
Purcell Elementary  
(325) 671-4845 #8103



## Audition Clinic Information

### **In order to join Color Guard, you must meet the following requirements:**

- Candidates must be zoned to Abilene High School or planning to move into the attendance zone for 2025-2026 school year.
- Candidates must currently be in grades 8-11.
- Yes, you CAN also be involved in several other sports/activities up at AHS. Just ask for details to see how it works with Color Guard practices. We currently have members also involved in Band, Tennis, Theatre, Choir, Orchestra, Holland, Atems...even Homeschool!

### **Try-Out Clinic Information**

- At the clinic you will join our Google Classroom for access to our Clinic Help Videos
- There are 8 Clinic Dates Offered- **April 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16 4:00PM-5:30PM AHS West Cafe.**
  - Learn flag fundamentals
  - Learn some dance fundamentals
  - Learn a simple routine
  - Learn about the program
- 2 Parent Meeting Dates Offered: **Thursday, April 9** or **Tuesday, April 14 6pm-7pm AHS West Cafe.**
  - Fund Raiser Opportunity to raise money for \$100 deposit handed out
- Please wear athletic or dancewear and jazz shoes or athletic shoes. No phones, jewelry, boots, or shoes with heels.
- Clinic dates are CLOSED to spectators/friends/family.
- **There is NO formal audition.** If you can handle learning the routine and you meet ALL requirements listed below to joining our organization, you are in.
- There is no set number of candidates accepted.

### **To be enrolled in 1st Period Color Guard class for next school you must:**

- Submit Application signed by Guardian/Parent
- Attend minimum of 4 clinic dates (8 are offered)
- Attend a Parent Information Meeting with a legal guardian/parent
- \*Student AND Parent/Guardian BOTH join BAND App (3 groups to join: AHSColorGuard, Eagle Band, and Band Parents)
- \*Attend New Team Practice: **Saturday, May 2 8:00am-11am**
- \*Attend May Registration and pay \$100 deposit (2 dates offered- **Friday, May 8th or 15th evening “come and go”**)

### **To Earn a Spot in The Fall 2026 Half-Time Show you must:**

- \*Turn in all Summer Skill Videos into Google Classroom **by July 19 11:59pm.**  
(Optional Practice sessions held @AHS all summer to help you get these done)
- \*Turn in a Dr. completed Physical **before July 20, 2026**
- \*Attend Summer Guard Camp **July 20-24 8:30am-6:30pm Location TBA**
- \*Attend all rehearsals, clinics, performances, and competitions starting **July 27, 2026.**  
(See the Band Google Calendar. [www.eagleband.com](http://www.eagleband.com))

\* These items will be covered in detail at one of the Parent Information Meetings

## AHS Color Guard Organization Information

Color Guard is NOT a Football season ONLY performing group – we perform at many functions throughout the ENTIRE school year. We have 2 main seasons: Fall Guard (July-December) and Winter Guard (January-April).

### **Fall Guard**

This season starts with Summer Guard Camp in mid-July and continues until the last AHS football game. During this season, we are a section of the Marching Band learning the Half-time show right alongside them. We attend all Band practices and travel with the band to all Football games. In addition to marching in several Abilene Community parades, we also attend 2 to 3 Marching Contests in October.

Costs for this season: (\$\$ on next page)

- Fall Band Membership Fees -game meals, clinicians, large props
- Fall Costume/Uniform Rental Fees -blk/gold game uniform, shorts, themed costume (turned back in to AHS after season is over)
- Equipment Rental Fees -all poles, silks and a rifle
- UDB App Access Fee -used to find detailed drill spots on the field during the show

Practice schedule for this season:

- Guard Camp -July 20-24 ALL Day (Abilene Location TBA)
- Summer Band Rehearsals -starting July 27 through start of school (see [eagleband.com](http://eagleband.com) calendar)
- Once School Starts:
  - Mon-Fri 7:00am
  - Monday Evenings 5pm-8:15pm

### **Winter Guard**

This season starts in mid-November and runs through April. We learn a Contest show that includes drill (marching positions and movements across the floor), flag work, dance, costumes, and props, set to pre-recorded music and performed on a gym floor. We travel to other cities to compete against other high schools in the state of Texas. In addition to 4 of these Competitions in January-March students are allowed to enter a Solo or Ensemble (2 to 4 performers) they have written themselves in a separate Solo & Ensemble competition held late April. We also perform at various Spring Shows for other organizations in Abilene.

Costs for this season: (\$\$ on next page)

- WinterGuard Program Fees -clinicians, large props, new silks
- WinterGuard Costume Fees - themed costume (owned by student after season)

Practice schedule for this season:

- November-December Pre-Season: 3 Monday or Tuesday Evenings to stage the show
- January-March:
  - Every Monday and Thursday
    - Morning 7am-8:35am
    - Evening 5:15pm-8:30pm
    - (Tuesdays instead of Mondays if it falls on a Holiday)

## **Financial Responsibilities:**

Each member is required to pay all fees and dues for the season, as well as purchase any personal items needed to be in compliance with the expectations for rehearsal and performance.

- **May Deposit of \$100 is due AT or BEFORE May Registration May 8th or 15th.**
  - Payment in full is not expected, but is allowed at May Registration.
  - To help, Spring Show Ticket Sales Fund Raiser will be offered at Parent Info Meeting (Apr 9 or 14)
  - If you cannot attend Registration, you and a parent will need to meet with Mrs. Findley BEFORE the May 15 deadline. Please understand that if you have not paid your \$100 deposit by May 21, your costume will not be ordered and CANNOT be ordered later.
- **August Payment of \$300 will be due at August Registration.**
  - Booster Plaque Sales Fundraiser will be offered at May Registration. These funds can be used to pay this \$300 payment or saved to be used for a Spring Trip.
  - Uniforms etc. will not be given to the student until the account has at least \$400 paid (May \$100 and August \$300), therefore...
  - Full Performance at football games cannot be allowed until the account balance is up to date...
- **November Payment of \$100 will be due Nov 16.**
  - Boosters offer several fund raisers throughout the year to help cover this November payment.
  - Winter Guard costumes will be measured for and ordered in November.
  - Winter Guard costumes will NOT be ordered unless the account balance is up to date.
- **April 5, 2027 is when Account Balance must be paid in full**
  - Boosters offer several fund raisers throughout the year to help cover this final April payment.
  - Any outstanding balance for the 26-27 school year must be paid before being allowed to sign up for the next school year.
- **Breakdown of Membership Fees**
  - ALL Members (New and Returning):
    - Band Program Fee \$100
    - Fall Uniform Rental Fee \$65
    - Winter Guard Uniform \$115
    - Winter Guard Program Fee \$75
    - Equipment Rental Fee \$30
    - Summer Guard Camp \$60
    - Ultimate Drill Book-\$15

**SubTotal \$460**
  - New Members (Returning Members- ONLY if need to replace something)
    - Black Outdoor/Field Jazz Shoes \$40
    - Team Jersey \$35
    - Team Jacket \$65
    - Personal Flag Bag \$50
    - Team Duffle Bag \$35
    - Vinyl Raincoat \$10
    - Garment Bag \$10
    - Water Jug \$10

**SubTotal \$255**
  - Optional for Returning Members
    - Rifle Gloves \$20 (optional)
  - 2XL size upcharge -\$5 per item (jersey and/or jacket)
  - 3XL size upcharge -\$10 per item (jersey and/or jacket)
  - 4XL size upcharge -\$15 per item (jersey and/or jacket)
- So...NEW members must pay:

○ ALL Member Fees	\$460
○ AND New Member Items	\$255
■	<b><u>\$715 Total for year*</u></b>
- And...Returning Members must pay:

○ ALL Member Fees	\$460
○ AND Any replacement items	\$
■	<b><u>\$ Total for year*</u></b>

\***Anyone** needing sizes 2XL or larger must pay the size upcharge per item ordered based on the company pricing list.

**New Members must purchase some additional items on their own over the summer. These will be discussed in full detail at Parent Information Meetings.**

## **FAQ**

- Do I have to currently be in Band to audition for the AHS Color guard? No, you do NOT have to already be in Band or play an instrument. But, you can be, you would simply march with a flag instead of your band instrument during Football Season.
- Do I already have to know how to dance or spin a flag? No, we teach ALL the basics.
- Do I have to be in the 1st period Band/Flags class? Yes. We do A LOT of traveling out of town during the school day during Football season. Having you enrolled in the Band/Flags class allows us to put you on release lists, etc.
- Can I also be in \_\_\_\_\_? Most of the time our answer is YES. Most Coaches, Directors, and Teachers at AHS are very willing to share students. BUT, it is up to you to communicate with BOTH sides so that we can coordinate practice times, etc.
- Do you go to ALL of the Football Games? Yes. We travel with the AHS Band to ALL Football games, parades, and contests. We ALSO go with them on their Spring Trip. This school year our trip was to a cool Water Park, Safari Park, and other cool spots in Austin, TX. We've also flown to Walt Disney World in Florida!
- What does the uniform/costume look like for Fall 2026????

Well...currently it is TOP SECRET until the Band Staff does the BIG Show Reveal in late April or Early May.

BUT...I can tell you that it will be something like the following:



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The membership application and Summer/Fall Calendar are on the next page.

Please fill out the application completely. Due Thursday, April 16, 2026.

Keep the rest of this packet for your reference.

IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY LOOKING AT THIS FORM ONLINE....

Please go get a paper copy of it in your school main office or Band Hall office.

Color Guard Membership Application  
Due Thursday, April 16 2026

Current Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_ ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Student employed? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, where? \_\_\_\_\_

Hours per week: \_\_\_\_\_ Would your employment interfere with practice or performance? Yes No

Are you in any other school activities (band, choir, French club, etc..)? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, what: \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, give my child, \_\_\_\_\_, permission to audition for the Abilene High Color Guard and agree to meet all attendance, financial, and fundraising obligations if they are selected as a member.

Please initial each:

\_\_\_\_\_ I have received and read a copy of Abilene High Color Guard -Audition Packet

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand I must attend a Parent Meeting: **April 9 or April 14**

\_\_\_\_\_ I will access the Band & district website's to review the Band Handbook, and AISD Student Code of Conduct at my own discretion, and agree to be bound by these documents. ([www.eagleband.com](http://www.eagleband.com))

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that the first New Team practice is **Saturday, May 2 8am-11am**

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that this is the Band/Flags 1st period class at AHS, and that this class lasts the ENTIRE school year consisting of 2 separate performing seasons.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that if chosen to be a member of the AHS Color Guard my Parent/Guardian and I must attend the May Registration on **May 8 or 15** and make the first \$100 payment or I must make arrangements to register in person BEFORE May 15 or my uniforms will NOT be ordered in time.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand **once June 1, 2026 has passed** that all fees are non-refundable and MUST be paid in full even if I no longer want to participate because custom uniforms will have already been ordered for me.

Candidate Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Abilene High Color Guard**  
**List of MANDATORY Events/Dates April-Summer**

<u>Date:</u>	<u>What:</u>	<u>Time:</u>	<u>Location:</u>
Mon-Thur, April 6-April 16	Try-Out Clinics	4:00pm-5:30pm	AHS West Cafeteria
Thursday, April 9	Parent Meeting option #1	6:00pm-7:00pm	AHS West Cafeteria
Tuesday, April 14	Parent Meeting option #2	6:00pm-7:00pm	AHS West Cafeteria
Thursday, April 30	Color Guard Spring Show	6:30pm-8:30pm	Cooper HS Main Gym
	Any \$\$Ticket Money Sold will cover May \$100 deposit (due May 15)		
Saturday, May 2	New Team Practice	8:00am-11:00am	AHS Band Hall
Saturday, May 2	Parent Meeting option #3	11:30am-12:00pm	AHS Band Hall
Friday, May 8 or 15	Registration -\$100 Deposit Due	6:00pm-8:00pm (come and go)	AHS Band Hall
June - July 19	Summer Skill Videos (at least 6 optional practices will be held at AHS during June and July)	Independent Practice	@ home
Mon-Fri, July 20-24	Summer Guard Camp	8:30am-6:30pm	Location in Abilene TBA
Mon-Fri, July 27-Aug 7 (Weekdays only)	ALL Day Summer Band	8:00am-4:00pm	AHS Band Hall
Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri Aug 10-14	Evening Summer Band	5:00pm-8:00pm	AHS Band Hall
Date TBA between Aug 3-14	August Band Registration -\$300 Payment Due	6:00pm-8:00pm (come and go)	AHS Band Hall
Wednesday, August 19	1st day of school (No early morning practice...today!)		AHS