McCullough Color Guard

Redefine Excellence

2025-2026 Audition Information Packet

<u>Informational Meeting</u>: *REQUIRED for interested students AND parents* April 14th, 2024 6:30-7:30PM Bock Auditorium

<u>AUDITIONS</u>: April 22nd – 25th, 2024 in the McCullough Gym 4:30-6:00 P.M.



The "Audition Application & Agreement" Google Form is due no later than 4:30 P.M. on Friday April 18th.

For questions, please contact Madison Niemeyer mniemeyer@conroeisd.net

Audition Week

- Candidates are expected to be ***present all 4 required days*** (Tuesday-Friday) otherwise they are **disqualified** from auditioning.

- The audition and audition clinic are closed to the public. Candidates' cell phones are to be turned off from 4:30 to 6:00 P.M.

- Candidates should wear a **plain white tee-shirt** (we will write an audition number on it in black sharpie), **black athletic shorts or leggings**, and have **hair pulled back** neatly. No jeans, baggy sweats, skirts, or jewelry will be permitted. Failure to follow attire requirements will result in **disqualification**.

- Results will be emailed to parents and guardians by 5:00 P.M. on Saturday, April 26th. Email will come from mniemeyer@conroeisd.net.

- Parents of candidates who have been selected to join the McCullough Color Guard will receive an email from the director within 2 weeks of auditions. This email will include information about important dates and the beginning of the year procedures.

Audition Checklist

- Audition Application & Agreement Google Form filled out NO LATER THAN 4:30PM on Friday 4/18
- Medical Release form *Note: this is NOT the same as a physical!
    - **Students may not participate in ANY physical activities without this form.**
- Any transfer requests must be approved prior to trying out; your student MUST be zoned for McCullough Junior High
- Your student has the proper attire, including:
    - White t-shirt **that can be written on***
    - Black leggings or shorts (no baggy sweatpants)
    - Sneakers and socks (shoes will be taken off)
    - Long hair is pulled back in bun, ponytail, pigtails, braids, etc. *SAFETY HAZARD*

McCullough Junior High School

COLOR GUARD CONTRACT

Congratulations on your interest in joining the McCullough Junior High School Color Guard. The success of this program will be built around *numerous hours of rehearsal*, *performance,* and *sacrifice* from the performers, parents, and staff. The purpose of the following guidelines is to provide a framework for the guard program at McCullough Junior High School. Teachers will routinely come to coaches/sponsors with feedback, encouragement, concerns, etc. Please be aware of this prior to enrolling your child in our program.

In order to continue to increase the standard of excellence in this program, both performers and parents need to read and understand the following information. After reading the information, *both student and parent signatures are required for membership*. **Your signatures imply that you both support and agree with these expectations and guidelines.** Please complete the "Audition Application & Agreement" Google Form no later than **April 18th, 2024 at 4:30 P.M.**

I. Objectives

A. To provide students with an outlet for performance.
B. To provide students with the opportunity to develop skills for teamwork and time management.
C. To prepare students for potential membership in a high school color guard program.
D. To represent McCullough Junior High School and Conroe ISD at school events, exhibitions, and Texas Color Guard Circuit competitions.
E. This organization shall operate in accordance with all campus and district policies, procedures, and regulations.

II. Audition Clinic

A. The audition clinic will be held at the end of each school year and will be open to candidates, staff members, clinicians, and school administrators only.
B. All electronics (video cameras, still cameras, picture phones) are not allowed. *Cell phones must be turned off.*
C. Candidates will be evaluated by the instructional staff on the membership guidelines previously stated.
D. Each candidate must turn in the Membership Information Form (online), the Contract & Fee Agreement Form (online), and the Medical Release (on paper).

III. Required Meetings

A. There will be two MANDATORY meetings every school year. Attendance is required for both guardians and members. The objectives of the meetings are as follows:
    i. **Spring- Audition Informational Meeting:** This meeting will precede auditions for the following year. Rising 7th and 8th grade students will attend this meeting as it outlines the expectations for members of the McCullough Color Guard prior to auditions.
    ii. **Fall- Competition Season Informational Meeting:** This meeting will precede Varsity auditions leading into our Spring competition season. We will discuss the competition calendar, rehearsal dates, and overall expectations for competition season.

IV. **Membership**

A. Upon completing the audition clinic, candidates who are selected for our program will be placed in either the McC Competition Color Guard or the McC Color Guard Principles of Color Guard.
B. Color Guard members who make the team are committing to be a part of the program for the **ENTIRE SCHOOL YEAR!**
C. The following table further breaks down the distinction between the two aspects of our program

Competition Color Guard	Principles of Color Guard
Made up of 64 members.	Made up of 48 members.
Class will replace their PE class (full year) for 7th graders and PE (half year) and an elective (half year) for 8th graders. **Once placed, membership is required for the entire school year.**	Class will replace their PE class (full year) for 7th graders and PE (half year) and an elective (half year) for 8th graders. **Once placed, membership is required for the entire year.**
Performance opportunities ● Pep Rallies: two in the fall; both 7th and 8th graders will perform at least once ● Competitions: four in the spring ● Spring Exhibition for friends & family	Performance opportunities ● Winter Showcase Performance ● Spring Winter Guard Exhibition ● Spring Showcase Performance
After School Practices ● October through March (Competition Season) ● In October, this group will separate into two teams: Varsity and JV ○ **Varsity**: practices on Mondays and Wednesdays 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM ○ **JV:** practices primarily on Thursdays 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM ● After-school practices are **MANDATORY** for both teams.	After-School Practices ● All school year: August through May (spring exhibition) ● **Occasional** Thursday and/or Tuesday after school 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Finances ● Membership Fee: $200 for the school year ○ Competition Fee ○ Flag Rentals & Supplies ○ Choreographer/Technician Fees ○ Competition Floor Supplies ○ Competition Buses ○ Pep Rally Tee Shirts ● Other Required Fees: ○ White color guard tee shirt: $10 ○ Warm-up jacket: $35 ○ Warm-up pants: $30 ○ Duffel bag: $20 ○ Personal Rifle: $35 plus shipping ○ Competition costume: $50 - $150 ○ Competition tee shirt: $20 ○ “Big/Little Sister” gifts: up to $100 ● Optional Fees ○ Yard Sign: $25 ○ Personal Flag: $35 plus shipping ○ Personal Flag Bag: $30 plus shipping ● **Once paid, fees are nonrefundable.**	Finances ● Membership Fee: $75 for the school year ○ Choreographer/Technician Fees ○ Pep Rally Tee Shirts ● White color guard tee-shirt: $10 ● Performance Costume/s: up to $100 ● Optional Fees: ○ Warm-up jacket: $35 ○ Warm-up pants: $30 ○ Duffel bag: $20 ○ Yard Sign: $25 ○ Personal Rifle: $35 plus shipping ○ Personal Flag: $35 plus shipping ○ Personal Flag Bag: $30 plus shipping ● **Once paid, fees are nonrefundable.**

Finances (continued)

- Some items, such as the white color guard tee-shirt, the warm-up jacket and pants, and the duffel bag do not vary from year to year. 7th graders who purchase these items do not need to buy them again in 8th grade.
- Additional costs include items such as electrical and strapping tape, gloves, and other small items on an as needed basis. These will be kept to a minimum and *may* be optional depending on the situation.
- Parents may also be asked to donate money towards social events. Donations will be optional, but are much appreciated!

Behavior will be monitored using a Merit/Demerit System in which merits are granted to members who go above and beyond standard expectations and demerits are granted to members who do not follow expectations. Merits may lead to rewards such as "Color Guard Members of the Month". Demerits may lead to disciplinary actions. How color guard members behave at the junior high level may impact their audition for the high school color guard.

Social Events: open to ALL members of the McCullough Color Guard (class and Principles of Color Guard)

- Fundraisers (throughout the year)
- Team Dinners (throughout the year)
- Pep Rallies (September & October)
- TWHS Red and Green Homecoming Parade (October)
- Halloween Party (October)
- THWS Football Game (October or November)
- "Winter Guard Wonderland" Party (December)
- End-of-Year Pool Party (May)

*Social events may vary year to year based on decisions by the director and social officers.

Responsibilities, Duties, Obligations

V. Academic

A. As performers, members must understand that their academic achievement is most important. If a member's name appears on the UIL Ineligibility List, his/her performance position is *permanently* in jeopardy.

B. Students must plan ahead and use good time management to keep up with their schedule. Proper study habits are very important. However, students *will not be allowed to miss rehearsal due to poor time management*, as this will jeopardize the success of the entire performance ensemble.

C. Attire and Grooming Expectations

1. The director will determine rehearsal and performance attire and grooming expectations.
2. Members are to wear appropriate rehearsal attire: Black shorts/leggings and a McCullough Color Guard T-shirt. Exceptions to this attire may be discussed as necessary.
3. Hair is to be brushed and pulled back in a ponytail/bun at rehearsal at all times.
4. Jewelry is prohibited at rehearsals. Necklaces, bracelets, and piercings can get caught in silks and can cause injury. Staff and administration will not be held responsible for broken or lost jewelry, or for injury involving jewelry

D. Behavior

1. Members must understand that they are representing the guard, McCullough Junior High School, and Conroe ISD at all times. Even when not with the group, members are expected to maintain the highest level of integrity, honesty, and morality. Unacceptable behavior, inappropriate attire, extreme hair color, and non-conventional body piercings are not allowed.
2. All rules and expectations in the McCullough Junior High School handbook apply.
3. Members must show obvious respect for staff, fellow members, parents within the organization, other members of the student body, as well as all school administrators and teachers.
4. Gossip, theft, and bullying will not be tolerated.
5. Failure to comply with behavioral expectations will be handled according to individual circumstances. Consequences will be administered as directors and administrators determine necessary. Parents will be notified of ongoing and/or serious behavior issues.

VI. Safety

A. Learning to toss and spin equipment may cause occasional bumps and bruises. If a more serious injury occurs, it will be handled as an individual situation. If injury prevents a member from full participation, members are still expected to attend and observe rehearsal. If injury prevents a competition team member from full participation during the competition season (October-March), an alternate may be asked to fill the performance position.
B. If a member behaves in a manner that could potentially be a safety hazard to themselves or others, staff members have the right to remove the member from participation.
C. A current physical must be on file with the school for participation (dated after April 15 2025)

VII. Competition Season: COMPETITION CLASS ONLY

A. There will be a separate audition in the fall in order to determine the placement of the members in the class on either Varsity or JV.
    i. JV/Varsity placement is based on a variety of factors, including but not limited to:
        1. Specific skills presented in the audition
        2. Specific skills observed during color guard class
        3. Attendance history
        4. Academic history
        5. Behavioral history (in and outside of color guard)
B. After-School Practices
    1. October – March: Varsity Rehearsals every Monday and Wednesday from 4:30 to 6:00 P.M.
        a. Please note that on weeks with **no school on Monday**, 30 minutes will be added to Wednesday's rehearsal (4:30 - 6:30 PM)
    2. November – March: JV Rehearsals every Thursday from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM.
    3. Competition Team members are **required** to be at practice if they are at school.
    4. Unexcused absences may result in losing your performance spot.
    5. Any member who must miss a rehearsal for any reason must contact the director, including for other school activities (band, orchestra, science fair, etc.)
    6. Doctor notes are **required** from your child's physician for any illness or injury.

7. If you miss a rehearsal the week of competition, you will be removed from performing at that competition.
    a. Ex- Student misses Wednesday Varsity rehearsal, Thursday JV rehearsal, and/or the last Green Day of the week before the competition.
8. All practices and events are subject to change due to other organizations, inclement weather, and unforeseen circumstances. I will always inform the members and parents of changes as soon as possible.

C. Attendance: Rehearsals and Performances are **MANDATORY**.
    1. As performers, members must understand that it may take sacrifices to be a part of this performance group.
    2. **THERE IS A 99% CHANCE THAT WE WILL HAVE A COMPETITION ON ONE OF THE SATURDAYS OF SPRING BREAK. DO NOT MAKE VACATION PLANS ON EITHER OF THOSE SATURDAYS! Failure to comply will result in loss of your competition spot and your membership on the competition team.**
    3. Family functions/vacations, non-emergency doctor and dentist appointments, study sessions, and social activities are <u>not excused</u> and will result in loss of performance position and membership on the competition team.
    4. All absences and tardies must be cleared in advance by emailing Ms. Niemeyer ahead of time.
    5. A history of unexcused absences or tardies, or a developing pattern of unexcused absences or tardies, will jeopardize one's performance position, and could result in loss of membership.
    6. The *only* excused absences that would be considered are severe illness *with a doctor's note* or a death in the immediate family *with documentation such as a funeral program.* Parental note may excuse one day of non-participation with a doctor note to follow. (Ex- Sally sprains her ankle. A parent may write a note excusing her from rehearsal on the day prior to the doctor visit. Member must turn in a doctor note to confirm the absence as excused)
        a. Please note that the verbiage "family event" is not an accepted excuse for an absence. Specificity and documentation are requirements for all absences.

D. Transportation
    1. All members must provide their own **timely** transportation to and from after- school rehearsals.
    2. If providing transportation at the given times is an issue, please make arrangements to carpool rather than make the director wait with your child for an extended period of time.

E. There may be alternate positions for the competition teams.
    1. At any time, an alternate may be placed into a performing/competitive position.
    2. At any time, a performing/competitive member may lose their performance spot and become an alternate due to grades, eligibility, discipline, excessive absences/tardies, poor work ethic and attitude, and/or level of performance.
    3. Scheduling conflicts with crucial rehearsals, and/or performances, may result in alternate status.
    4. Members must understand that not all performers will perform in every segment of the show, whether exhibition or competition.

VIII. Leadership

A. The director will determine whether or not there will be officer positions and the method of selection.
B. Leadership positions will be reserved for returning members of the competition team.
C. Officer candidates will receive specific instructions, as well as an additional application and agreement form to be signed.
D. Officer status may be jeopardized if:
    i. The officer is consistently and persistently tardy or absent, especially without excuse.
    ii. The officer is consistently and persistently ineligible/failing.
    iii. The officer has multiple behavioral referrals and disciplinary consequences.
    iv. The officer fails to follow both membership and leadership expectations.