

Belleville Community Guard Programs

Junior Color Guard (Fall) (Grades 5–8)

Season Information Packet – 2026

Welcome!

Our program is designed for students in grades 5–8 who want to learn color guard skills, make new friends, and grow as performers. No experience is required, we are here to teach and support all who are interested in learning.

Color Guard is an activity that combines dance, equipment (flags, rifles, sabres), and performance skills, set to music. It is also a great way to build the skills that strengthen and prepare students for marching band color guard in high school.

Rehearsal Schedule

- **Tuesdays & Thursdays , 6:00–8:00 pm**
 - **Location:** West Side of Belleville High School by administration building
 - Location will move during season as BHS facilities close for summer
 - Rehearsals begin **May 5th** and run through **October 2nd**.
 - A detailed calendar (including competition dates and special events) will be shared through the **Band App** and our Google Calendar.
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Costs & Fundraising

Dues per Junior Guard member: **\$75**

financial assistance available, please contact staff as needed.

This cost covers:

- Performance Show Shirt– \$25
- Equipment Maintenance and Purchasing (Show Flag, equipment Upkeep)– \$50

Your Student will need to purchase a flag bag if they do not have one, they can purchase whichever color they like from [HERE](#).

Payment Schedule:

- **May 30th:** \$75 Paid in full

Expectations

As a member of Junior Guard, your student agrees to:

- Attend all rehearsals and events.
- Arrive 15 minutes early, dressed in **athletic clothing and sneakers** (no jeans, crocs, or slides)
- Participate with a positive attitude and respect for teammates and staff
- Communicate through the **Band App** (required for all families)

Absences: Missing rehearsals may affect performance eligibility. Illness and emergencies should be reported to staff right away. Members are allowed 3 excused absences per season. If more are required please contact staff to make arrangements

Performance Eligibility

We want every Junior Guard member to have the opportunity to perform. Our approach at this level is supportive and development-focused, and we work hard to make sure every student feels prepared and included.

In the week leading up to a performance, staff will assess each member informally to ensure they are familiar with the material and ready to take the field. This is not a formal test out but rather a staff check-in to identify anyone who may need additional support before the event. If a member needs extra help, staff will work with them directly to get them ready.

Members with absences during performance week should check in with staff as soon as possible. Absences at this level will be evaluated case by case, and staff will communicate directly with families about any impact on performance participation. Our goal is always to keep members involved and on the floor whenever safely and reasonably possible.

Team Culture

Junior Guard is a place where every student should feel safe, supported, and excited to walk through the door. We work hard to build a team culture rooted in respect, encouragement, and personal accountability. Bullying, exclusion, and disrespectful behavior toward teammates or staff have no place in this program.

Our coaching staff is committed to guiding every member to understand not just how they perform, but how they show up for the people around them. We believe that how you treat your teammates is just as important as what you do on the floor, and we take time throughout the season to reinforce that culture intentionally.

Our Culture Policy

When a culture concern arises, our staff will address it directly and privately with the member involved. We approach these conversations with care and without judgment, because our goal is always growth, not punishment.

However, we also have a responsibility to protect the team as a whole. Our policy is as follows:

- **First conversation:** Staff addresses the issue directly with the member and works with them to identify a path forward
- **Second conversation:** A guardian will be contacted and brought into the conversation to address the concern together
- **If the issue is unresolved:** The member may be removed from the program to protect the wellbeing of the full team

We do not take removal lightly and it is always a last resort. Our hope is that every member chooses to be a positive force on this team. Junior Guard is better when everyone is all in, together.

Dress Code & Appearance

As a performance unit that regularly rehearses in public spaces and performs at public events, Junior Guard holds its members to a higher standard of dress than the general Van Buren Schools dress code. This is not about restriction for its own sake. It is about safety, professionalism, and making sure every member can move, perform, and represent the program with confidence.

Required Attire

- Athletic clothing that is stretchable and allows full range of motion. If you cannot comfortably do a lunge, a spin, or a leap in it, it is not appropriate for rehearsal
- Athletic shoes with full coverage and ankle support. Shoes must be tied and secure at all times
- Hair secured away from the face during all rehearsals and performances. Loose hair can interfere with equipment and visibility
- Clothing must fit properly and stay in place throughout all movement. If a garment shifts, rides up, falls down, or exposes a member during stretching, bending, leaping, or floor work, it is not appropriate for rehearsal

Not Permitted

- Jeans or any non-stretch denim
- Crop tops or any top that exposes or has the potential to expose the member during movement. Even tops that appear to have adequate coverage while standing can ride up and expose a member during the dynamic movement required in color guard
- Loose or oversized clothing that may shift or expose a member during dance, floor work, or equipment work

- Short shorts or any bottoms that do not provide full coverage during all ranges of movement
- Slides, crocs, open-toed sandals, or any shoe without full foot coverage
- Loose or dangling jewelry that could catch on equipment or cause injury
- Clothing with offensive graphics or language

A Note on Undergarments

Because our members are minors participating in a physically dynamic activity in public settings, we ask that parents and guardians take an active role in reviewing their student's rehearsal attire before they leave home. Undergarments should be appropriate, fully covered by outer clothing at all times, and should remain covered during all ranges of movement including bending, leaping, spinning, and floor work. If there is ever a question about whether an outfit meets this standard, we encourage families to do a quick movement test at home before rehearsal. Guardians are always welcome to reach out to staff with any questions about appropriate attire.

Dress Code Enforcement

At the start of each rehearsal, members are expected to arrive in appropriate attire and ready to move. If a staff member identifies a dress code concern, the member will be given a brief opportunity to adjust their clothing on the spot. If the issue cannot be quickly resolved, the member will be asked to leave rehearsal and return in appropriate attire.

Guardians are welcome and encouraged to bring appropriate clothing to the rehearsal location so the member can change and return to participate. Dress code absences do not count toward a member's excused absence allowance and may affect performance eligibility just as any other unexcused absence would.

We understand that mistakes happen, especially early in the season. Our goal is never to exclude a member but to ensure that every student is dressed in a way that keeps them safe, covered, and ready to perform. When in doubt, reach out to staff before rehearsal and we are happy to help.

Why This Matters

We rehearse regularly at public parks and perform at football games open to the entire community. Our members are minors in a public-facing role, and appropriate dress protects their dignity, their safety, and the reputation of the program. Clothing that seems fine while standing still can become a problem the moment movement begins. We take this seriously because we care about every member feeling comfortable, covered, and confident while they perform.

A Practical Note

If cost is a barrier to obtaining appropriate attire, please reach out to staff privately and we will do our best to help. We recommend keeping a spare set of athletic clothes in your bag at all times so a dress code issue never stands between your student and a full rehearsal.

Performances

The Junior Guard will perform on October 2nd with the BHS Marching Band for the BHS VS Novi football game

- Members will perform at pre game and halftime performances
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Parent Involvement

Our program depends on strong parent support. Parents are asked to:

- Help with performance at BHS game on October 2nd
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Contacts

- **Email:** admin@bellevilleguards.org
- **Band App:** Create your profile with a clear picture of you and your actual name, parents please add your students name in parenthesis after your name.
 - Parent Band: <https://band.us/n/afa3A46fCfN23>



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- Junior Color Guard Band: <https://band.us/n/aaa3A8x0I07eM>



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We're Excited!

Junior Guard is all about learning, teamwork, and having fun. We can't wait to see your student grow this season and bring their energy to the floor.

PLEASE SEND AT LEAST 1 GUARDIAN



6:30 PM APRIL 23RD BHS BAND ROOM

FALL COLOR GUARD PARENT MEETING



**THURSDAY
23 APRIL, 2026**



**6:30PM TO
8:00PM**

**BHS BAND ROOM
501 W COLOMBIA
EAST SIDE OF
SCHOOL**

**FALL HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL GUARD
PARENTS AND GUARDIANS ARE ASKED TO COME MEET
WITH STAFF FOR DETAILS ON PARTICIPATION FOR THE
UPCOMING 2026/2027 SEASON**



JUNIOR GUARD

MIDDLE SCHOOL 2026/27 5TH - 8TH GRADE

REHEARSALS TUES / THURS

MAY 5TH - AUG 20TH

6PM - 8PM @ BHS

OR LOCAL PARK

PERFORMANCE WITH BHS BAND

OCTOBER 2ND @ BHS

More INFO @ www.bellevilleguards.org or
email admin@bellevilleguards.org



Team Gear

Your student will receive a show shirt for the season but there is a team store that you are welcome to purchase team items from. The team does not make a profit off these items and this is provided just to offer an opportunity to show team pride

Our teams merchandise stores can be found here: <https://www.bellevilleguards.org/merch>

Winter Guard

Winter guard is not required, but we strongly encourage every member to continue into the winter season. While the fall season builds your foundation, winter guard is where real transformation happens. Members develop harder and more complex skills, step into leadership roles, build deeper bonds with their teammates, and compete alongside color guard programs from across the entire state of Michigan. The friendships formed, the challenges overcome, and the growth experienced from auditions through championships are unlike anything the fall season can offer on its own. Many of our alumni describe winter guard as one of the defining experiences of their school years, and members who participate

consistently return to the fall season as stronger, more confident, and more capable performers.

Season Timeline & Cost

The winter season begins in mid-October and runs through the Michigan Color Guard Circuit Championship at the end of March. Rehearsals build through the fall and winter months toward a February through March competition season, where programs from across the state compete at local schools. To make participation as accessible as possible, dues are broken into manageable payments spread across November through January so families are never asked to pay the full amount at once.

Financial assistance is available for any family that needs it. Please reach out to staff privately and we will do everything we can to make participation possible for your student.

We hope to see everyone at Tiger Elite in October!

