



DECATUR TOWNSHIP
CADET
WINTER GUARD
2023-2024

Organizational Handbook
2023-2024

INDIANA STATE FINALIST 21 Times
3 TIME STATE RUNNER UP - Indiana HS Color Guard Association
Winter Guard International Regional Champions
2018 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS Bronze Medalist

WELCOME to the CADET Winter Guard! The tradition continues - Year #22! The DCHS Winter GUARD is an extension of the band department, but does not meet for a credit or a grade. Enrollment is open to any current DCHS student or students within the music / academic feeder program. This group is an extracurricular group sponsored by the band department. Much like an athletic team, this group will only succeed if the members are committed. Students are expected to maintain good grades and stay in favor within the band department and DCHS. Students that have participated in the marching band and have successfully met all the obligations of the band department will undoubtedly do an excellent job within this organization. This is an extra-curricular group (as defined by our school system) we will not be sharing students with other groups. This group is known as one of the hardest working and most successful groups at DCHS. Our expectations reflect this and therefore require dedication and sacrifice. All rehearsals are mandatory unless noted by the director.

Grade Requirements: YOU MUST PASS 6 (six) CLASSES Please read the DCHS Band Handbook for more information on this requirement. Students are expected to practice as individuals to improve their performance skills. Students are expected to remain with the group through WGI Nationals. STUDENTS MUST HAVE ALL PAST BAND FEES PAID BY The End Of November TO CONTINUE WITH THE GROUP!! Please see Mr. Bess or email our Treasurer if you have questions.

STAFF

The Colorguard staff will consist of the following members and how this staff member will function within the organization.

Mr. Bess / Mr. Halstead Abess@decaturproud.org chalstead@decaturproud.org

Mr. Bess (Director of Bands) will serve as the administrator of the group. He will attend many rehearsals and performances and will be primarily responsible for this group. Several of the “nuts and bolts” will be handled by Mr. Bess / Mr. Blane including entering contests, paying staff and contest/association fees, rehearsal location and dates, transportation, discipline, communication with parents and administration, staffing, etc. Mr. Bess will work closely with each staff member.

Mr. Blane - Director - hblane@decaturproud.org

Staff Mr. Anthony Hughes (regional A guard lead and overall tech)

Staff Ms. Maria Nisly (cadet guard lead and overall tech)

Staff Mr. Ashton Haliburton (lead weapon tech for all groups)

Staff Ms. Rachelle Lynam (varsity tech)

Staff Ms. Elizabeth Lynam (tech for Regional A and cadet)

PARENT INVOLVEMENT - Lead Parents Jennifer Jennings and Sara Smith

We have always been very lucky to have several parents help this award-winning group. We hope this year is no different. We honestly cannot be successful without PARENT HELP!!! Please don't wait to ask how you can get involved. Just simply jump in. Here are some of the areas that will need help: Food, Chaperones, Uniforms, props, moving and loading, etc.

INDOOR CONTESTS: We will host 3 INDOOR contests this SPRING at DCHS. It is very important that PARENTS help us run these contests. Each contest we run will generate about \$7,000-8,000 for the BAND PROGRAM. These contests help keep your Winterguard fees LOW. Thus, we NEED PARENTS TO HELP! If your student is involved with the Winterguard we expect your help. If we didn't have these contests the fees for our indoor programs would TRIPLE!

*****Please save the following dates:**

February 25th and March 11 as well as April 8-9. WE MUST have your help working these contests. Please sign up through MY music office.

Food – parents have been very gracious about providing food for the members and staff on camp days and before we leave for competitions on Saturdays (and away trips). We have had several people help in this area. Most meals will be on Contest Saturdays and the away trips. This is very helpful to our students and saves them a lot of time on the hectic contest days.

Semi – Having a truck driver is critical!! The Winterguard will use a box truck (or SEMI IF NEEDED) for each Saturday contest. We would like to have at least 2 parents that can drive a truck for the Winterguards. A performance calendar is provided in this packet. Band Booster, Inc. covers the gas money and rental of a truck (if needed). If you can help drive, please call Mr. Bess ASAP @ 856-5288 ext. 01626

Prop Crew – Much like the marching band we will need parents to help move props (if we have them) on and off the gym floor at each contest. Prop Building – Much like the marching band we could have the need to have props....we will be contacting all of you to see if you can help when the final designs are finished!!

Fundraising - We will have some fundraising to offset the cost of being in the group – a few parents will be needed for this! All members will participate in all band fundraisers.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is the key to our success! The DCHS Winterguards has quickly become some of the best colorguard groups in Indiana and has a NATIONAL reputation as one of the finest groups in the Midwest. Due to the fact that our groups will be anywhere from 40/50 members is it imperative that we have everyone at rehearsals– things move quickly at each rehearsal. Changes in the drill / music can be and often are made from practice to practice. Your part has a large effect on the show. **EVERYONE IS IMPORTANT!**

Due to the educational and competitive nature of our group we would like to have a strong commitment from each of our members.

Students who plan on participating in the Decatur Guards should expect to be at all practices.

Acceptable reasons to miss: Sickness (not at school), Emergency illness / family emergency
Director's permission (2 week advance notice required)

If student attendance becomes an issue a parent/teacher/administrator meeting will be arranged to determine the issue and/or continuation in the guard. Missed practices (or any part of practice) can not be made up. Students may be removed from the group or have their parts altered to ensure continued success of the group.

The difficulty of the part assigned will be in direct proportion to the amount of time committed to ensemble rehearsal. We would like to know all conflicts in advance to prepare the best possible outcome for the group.

Calendar – The calendar is now available and has all practices and nearly all performances (We probably will have to reschedule some rehearsals due to SNOW / weather....please be flexible – we will attempt to communicate this in advance.

Do not join the group if you cannot meet the rehearsal requirements.

Parents: please do not “pull” your students out of the group once the season begins. We will work with you to avoid any issues. Communication is KEY!

Financial Issues – The cost for being a member is \$300. This money will help to pay staff, enter contests, props, tarp, uniform, custom arrangements, semi rental, and much more. The student fees will not cover half of what is spent on this group....not even close.

Each member is expected to pay a \$100.00 down payment by MID JANUARY. This money will be used to secure a spot in this ensemble and order uniforms! Any member who drops out for any reason after December 17th will be expected to pay the full fee regardless of the reason. The Payment Schedule has been set up by Mr. Bess to help everyone meet this obligation. If you cannot meet the timeline stated please see Mr. Cox to set up a more feasible time schedule. ****MONTHLY PAYMENTS ARE EXPECTED AS A MEMBER OF THIS GROUP. IF you miss more than 2 payments you will be removed from the group.**

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Dec. 15	\$100- Commitment Fee / Uniforms ordered
Jan. 19	\$50 – Entry Fees / Writing Music / Concepts / Props
Feb. 16	\$50 - Staff fee / Tarp and Props
March 15	\$50 – Staff Fee / Tarp / WGI fees
April 5	\$50 - Staff / Trucks / WGI fees

TOTAL: \$300

FUNDRAISERS – The Winterguard will participate in ALL fundraisers offered by the band

department. These fundraisers can help you to pay off your band fees as well as meet the budget of the winterguard! If members of the Winterguard were responsible for the budget of the season your fees would triple...so fundraising is a requirement of this group!! WE MUST HAVE FULL winterguard fees by the dates listed. Fundraisers will include the Butter Braids / and more. Commitment Form is attached

HAVE A GREAT SEASON!

Adam Bess, Director of Bands / Chris Halstead, Associate Director of Bands / Harley Blane, Colorguard Director

5251 Kentucky Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46221

Phone: 317-856-5288, ext. 27200 or 27201 Fax: 317-856-2157 • <http://www.dchsbands.org>

DECATUR CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

WINTER GUARD

Commitment Form - Handbook, Rules and Financial



I have read the following information regarding policies, rules, future events and finances for the Decatur Central High School Bands. I understand the information disclosed to me and give Decatur Central High School Band's directors and instructor's permission to act as needed. I further understand that the directors and instructors reserve the right to remove an individual from performing duties and/or the program at-large upon repeated offenses or negligence of the Decatur Central High School Band's policies. Please complete this form (and make your first band payment) and **return it by Dec. 15, 2023** (securing your place as a member of our ensemble). This form indicates both a student and parent/guardian understanding of the guidelines outlined in the handbook. We want to welcome you as a member of the Decatur Central High School Bands, and look forward to an incredible season with you!

By signing and returning this form, the students and parents/guardians of the Decatur Central High School Bands agree to the following:

I have read the band handbook and agree to follow all guidelines therein. I agree to meet all financial obligations as outlined in the handbook.

Students will be in attendance at all rehearsals and performances, or follow the appropriate guidelines for arranging an absence, all as outlined in the handbook. I agree to complete the mandatory medical release form (this is different from the physical) and Band booster information form and return them with this form.

I understand that this is a commitment, and that administration, staff and students are relying on this commitment to reach our goals of excellence. Students who drop out of the program after Dec 16th, 2023 will be liable for the entire fee associated with this group.

Student Name: _____

Grade (for this current School Year): 9 10 11 12 Other _____

Student Signature: _____

E-mail: _____

Mother/Guardian Name (please print):

Mother/Guardian Signature: _____

E-mail: _____

Home Mailing Address:

Primary Phone: (_____)_____-_____

Secondary Phone: (_____)_____-_____

Place of Employment: _____

Work Phone: (_____)_____-_____

Father/Guardian Name (please
print)_____

Father/Guardian Signature: _____

E-mail: _____

Home Mailing

Address:_____

Primary Phone: (_____)_____-_____

Secondary Phone:(_____)_____-_____

Place of Employment: _____

Work Phone: (_____)_____-_____

**PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ARE SIGNED UP IN
My Music Office / Our Facebook Groups**