

EL DORADO GOLDEN HAWKS BAND & COLORGUARD

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~ PARENT GUIDE – COLOR GUARD ~

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Welcome to the El Dorado Band and Colorguard program! This program has demonstrated consistent excellence throughout its 30+ year history. We are considered one of the top programs in all of Southern California. Many of the top students at El Dorado participate in this program and consider it a highlight of their high school experience. This guide is designed to give parents of incoming color guard students an overview of the program. For additional information please check our web site at www.eldoradoband.com.

Basics

Color Guard is an auxiliary unit which performs both with and without band, and involves elements of dance, marching, and equipment work (flags, rifles, and sabres). Color Guard auditions are open to all interested students. No prior experience is required. Clinics are offered prior to audition week. Members are chosen by a panel of judges including, but not limited to, the color guard director and band director. The key factors in the decision making process are a student's proficiency and potential.

Marching Season - August through November

Color Guard performs with the Marching Band during this season. There are two performance "events" during this season, which are the **street march** (parade) and **field show** (football halftime show). During the marching season, the color guard is focused on learning the equipment work (e.g. flag work) and marching for these two events. These are performed during official competitions on weekends, and also non-competitive events such as football halftime shows and band pageants. Color Guard is much like a sport, and very exciting for the students and parent spectators alike!

- For the street competitions, only the "competition block" of students will be marching. This block is selected prior to the initial competition based on proficiency in both flag work and marching skills.
- If the street competition is part of a larger parade (i.e. Placentia Parade), the balance of the guard members will "fall in" to the parade block after passing by the judging stand.
- A "call sheet" listing the day's schedule will be available before each event. *THE COLOR GUARD CALL TIME IS ALWAYS 30 to 60 MINUTES BEFORE THE BAND CALL TIME.*
- Each Color Guard member will be assigned a RED JACKET to wear over the parade uniform. These jackets DO NOT GO HOME!
- Color Guard members change clothes on the bus which is why they wear unitards under their uniforms.

Winter Guard Season – January through April

- Winter Guard is the Color Guard unit performing competitively inside a gym
- There will be approximately 6 competitions from January through April, usually on Saturdays.
- The time commitment on an event day is usually 8 to 10 hours.
- Members may opt to be involved in "secret pals" gift giving.

Schedule Commitments for Students

All competitions and practices are **MANDATORY** and count toward the student's grade. In this "sport" every member is "first string" and even one missing student greatly impacts the ability of the group to perform.

- Summer dance lessons – mandatory if not on vacation.
- Summer rehearsals (twice per week in July) – mandatory if not on vacation
- Color Guard camp – the week before band camp. NO VACATIONS NOW
- Band camp – the two weeks before school starts. NO VACATIONS NOW
- Zero and first periods.
- Marching Season:
 - Monday night rehearsals at Bradford Stadium (Valencia High School)
 - Pre-determined after-school sectionals each week
 - Occasional special rehearsals as required
 - There will be competitive street marching and field show competitions almost every Saturday in October and November. Locations will be throughout Southern California, including the San Diego area. The time commitment for competition days ranges from a few hours to an entire day – for example 7am to 11pm.

- El Dorado home football games
- District Band Pageant – evening event in early November.
- At the end of the marching season the Band and Colorguard march down Main Street USA at Disneyland, and get to visit the park for the day!
- Winter Guard Season
 - Winter break rehearsals
 - Weekly evening rehearsals
 - Weekly sectionals (rifles/sabers)
 - Competition days
 - Spring break rehearsals

Parent Involvement

The El Dorado Band and Color Guard has very strong parent support through the El Dorado Band Boosters. It is important to realize the value of parent help -- it would be extremely difficult to achieve the high standard that is expected of the El Dorado Band and Color Guard without the commitment from parents throughout the year. There are many committees to get involved with, check the website and contact the chairperson if you'd like to help out. The main committees are:

- **Flag Sewing** – This group constructs all of the color flags used throughout the year. If you don't sew, you may also volunteer to cut fabric.
- **Uniforms** – They are responsible for maintaining the band uniforms (including the color guard jackets), assisting students to "suit up" for competitions, and making sure the students follow the competition dress code.
- **Food** – They provide meals to students on certain event days. Meals are planned and prepared in advance, and transported to the event site. The meals are served to students in the staging area for the event. Note that all parents will be asked to donate dessert items at specified times during the marching season.
- **Transportation**, Famously known as the "**MIB**" – **Men In Black** – They are responsible for transporting instruments and equipment to and from events using the booster-owned trailers. They also maintain the trailers and construct show props as requested by the directors. Each member receives a free shirt and hat to be worn on event days. There is an event during the late summer to clean and prepare our trailers for the new year and is a great opportunity to come out and join the MIB.
- **Competition Attendance** - Parents are strongly encouraged to attend, and MANY do! We are famous for our large cheering section.

Money Matters

Checks for fees and other payments are made out to "El Dorado Band Boosters", and can be left in the drop box ("black box") outside of the band director's office.

COLOR GUARD FEES

- Color Guard fees pay for your street and field uniforms, street and field shoes, warm-ups, tank top, and unitards. These fees are due in 3 monthly payments – May, June, July. (The intention is to have the color guard fees paid in full before the band fees come due in August.)

BAND FEES - **These fees are in addition to your color guard fees**

- Band fees are due during band registration which is the first day of band camp. The staff and booster board are strongly committed to keeping fees as low as possible, and as a result the fees are consistently lower than other programs in the area, including other band programs as well as sports.
- The biggest chunk of your band fees goes to transportation. Other items included are flags, uniform maintenance, show shirt, some meals at all day events, show writers & designers, music purchase, arrangement, and editing, etc. There are many, many parts to this puzzle we call a field show. In addition, your band fees pay for the winter guard director's salary and winter guard competition entry fees.

WINTER GUARD FEES

- Winter Guard fees pay for your uniform, choreography, clinician fees, music editing, drill writing, show shirt, transportation, flag fabric, props, year-end keepsakes, and year-end party. The fees are due in 3 monthly payments – January, February, March.

FUNDRAISING

- **BOOSTER SPONSORED FUNDRAISERS**

In order to keep this high-quality program running and too keep the band fees as low as possible, we have various fund-raising programs throughout the year. While these vary somewhat from year to year the main ones are:

- Cow Chip Bingo, generally held in late September
- Holiday Wrap Booth (or similar)

- Gift Basket Raffle, held during the holiday concert
- WINTER GUARD FUNDRAISERS
The color guard parents may opt to hold special fundraisers (i.e. cookie dough, yard sale, home products, etc.) to offset their winter guard fees.

OTHER MONEY MATTERS

In addition to the color guard fees, band fees, and fundraising activities, other costs associated with band include, but are not limited to:

- Spectator admission to field tournaments and winter guard competitions
NOTE: these are fundraisers for the band/color guard programs sponsoring the events
- Entry to football games
- DVDs and CDs of the band and color guard which are sold at certain times during the year
- Secret Pal gifts (optional)
- Practice shoes
- Gloves (if needed)
- Money for meals at all-day events (remember, these are fundraisers for the host schools)
- Equipment (rifle)
- Flag Bag
- Socks
- Make-up
- The end-of-year Band Banquet

Odds and Ends

- You will receive a packet of information this summer with forms to be completed and returned at registration on the first day of band camp.
- Color Guard members are to arrive for zero period dressed in practice clothes. Bring school clothes to change into after practice.
- Each color guard member will need a bag with her name on it to carry personal belongings in.
- Fall semester of color guard (the marching season) counts as PE credit. So a student taking 4 years of color guard will satisfy their full high school PE requirement of 4 semesters.
- Students are transported both TO and FROM all marching season competitions, football games, etc. by school bus. Parents must arrange their own transportation separately.
- Transportation to/from winter guard competitions will be by school bus or parent drivers, depending on the location of the event.
- Marching competitions are arranged by various “classes” or categories. El Dorado generally competes in class 6A, which is the highest.
- The top award of any marching competition (street or field) across ALL classes is called “Sweepstakes”. Generally this is won by a band in the top category (i.e. 6A) and so the “1st place” winner in 6A is really like 2nd place.
- Winter Guard competitions are arranged by various “classes” or categories. El Dorado Varsity generally competes in the “Scholastic Open” class, while the JV competes in the “Scholastic A” class.