

EL DORADO GOLDEN HAWKS BAND & COLORGUARD

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~ PARENT GUIDE – DRUMLINE ~

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Welcome to the El Dorado Band and Colorguard program! This program has demonstrated consistent excellence throughout the 30+ years that it has been under the leadership of Mr. Rich Watson. 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 percussion students an overview of the program. For additional information please check our web site at www.eldoradoband.com.

Basics

Drumline is an ensemble of percussionists. During the fall marching season the drumline is split into two groups: the “battery” (marching and maneuvering) and the “pit” (stationary positions, mostly mallet instruments). The percussionists perform in one of three concert groups during concert season as well as in the percussion ensemble. Drumline auditions are held each May. Placements within the percussion section are determined by the instructor based on individual performance and ensemble cohesiveness during the audition clinics and rehearsals.

Marching Season - August through November

All percussion students participate in **Marching Band** during this season. There are two performance “events” to marching band, which are the **street march** (parade) and **field show** (football halftime show). During the marching season, the marching band is focused on learning the music 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. Marching band is much like a sport, and very exciting for the students and parent spectators alike!

- Both street and field marching involve precision marching and maneuvering, in addition to playing music! Much of the instruction during the marching season focuses on this aspect.
- After football half-time shows, the battery entertains the crowd by performing the cadence on the track.
- At the District Band Pageant, the high schools in our district combine their battery groups to perform a district cadence. This has become a magnificent crowd-pleaser.
- For some of the street marching competitions, only the “competition block” of students will be marching. This block is selected prior to the initial competition based on proficiency with both music and marching skills.
- If the street competition is part of a larger parade (i.e. Placentia Parade), the balance of the band 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.

Concert season - December through June

During concert season all students will be placed into one of these three groups, based on auditions:

- **Wind Ensemble** – This is the top group during the concert season. It consists of a set number of each type of instrument.
- **Symphonic Band** – This is the secondary group during the concert season.
- **Concert Band** – This is the entry-level group during the concert season.

In addition, there is a special group called Symphonic Orchestra which is a combination of instruments from the band and the orchestra. This group practices only on certain days during the concert season.

The concert groups rehearse during zero period. The percussion ensemble rehearses during 4th period.

Concert season events consist of a number of school concerts plus one judged competition, which is the SCSBOA festival (Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association).

Winter Drumline – January through April

Winter Drumline is a competitive percussion ensemble performed inside the gymnasium. The competitive season is January through April.

- The drumline may participate in winter drumline competitions.

- Winter drumline will require a fee for uniforms, transportation, etc.
- Additional rehearsals will be required.
- The time commitment on an event day is usually 8 to 10 hours.
- More information will be provided if the ensemble participates in winter drumline.

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 rehearsals (weekly) – mandatory if not on vacation
- Percussion camp – the week before band camp. NO VACATIONS NOW
- Band camp – the two weeks before school starts. NO VACATIONS NOW
- A percussionist's class schedule includes zero period band and 4th period percussion.
- During marching season there are additional rehearsals as follows:
 - Monday night rehearsals at Bradford Stadium (Valencia High School)
 - Weekly after school ensemble rehearsals
 - Weekly after school section rehearsals
 - Occasional special rehearsals as required
- There will be various 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.
- The band and colorguard also perform at Bradford Stadium for each El Dorado home football game, including CIF playoffs. There is also an optional pep band that plays at away 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!
- Schedule commitments are reduced during the concert season.
- Winter Drumline - *To Be Determined*

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:

- **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 via motor home 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** (otherwise know 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.
- **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.

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 Mr. Watson's office.

Band fees are due during 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. In order to keep this high-quality program running, we also

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, held at Wal Mart for the few weeks leading up to the holiday break
- Gift Basket Raffle, held during the holiday concert
- 50-50 drawing held at football games

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

- Field show competitions charge admission for spectators (note these are fundraisers for the band sponsoring the competition)
- Money for meals at all-day events (note these are fundraisers for the host schools)
- Entry to football games
- Percussion supplies (Practice Pad, Drumsticks, Stick Bag - put your name on it!)
- DVDs and CDs of the band, which are sold at certain times during the year
- Possible Winter Drumline Fees
- The end-of-year Band Banquet

Odds and Ends

- Miscellaneous Performances may include
 - School Assemblies
 - Football Team Pre-Game Dinners
 - Community Ceremonies
 - Lunchtime Pep Rallies
- 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.
- Students are transported both TO and FROM all marching season competitions, football games, etc. by school bus. Parents must arrange their own transportation separately.
- 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.