

EL DORADO GOLDEN HAWKS BAND & COLORGUARD

PARENT GUIDE

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Welcome to the El Dorado Band and Color Guard 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 the band and involves elements of dance, marching, and equipment work (flags, rifles, and sabers). Color Guard auditions are open to all interested students. No prior experience is required.

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.

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.

SCHEDULE COMMITMENTS FOR STUDENTS

All competitions and practices are mandatory and count toward the student’s grade. Even one missing student greatly impacts the ability of the group to perform.

- Summer Dance lessons – mandatory if not on vacation

- Summer rehearsals – mandatory if not on vacation

- Color Guard camp – mandatory

- Color Guard/Band camp – mandatory

- Zero and 1st periods

- Marching Season:

 - Monday night rehearsal at Bradford Stadium

 - Pre-determined after-school practices

 - Occasional special rehearsals as required

El Dorado home football games
District Band Pageant

There will be competitive street marching and field show competitions most Saturdays in October and November. Locations will be throughout Southern California, including the San Diego area. The time commitments for competition days range from a few hours to an entire day.

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. In addition to serving on various committees we need parents to chaperone events. Color Guard parents are needed to chaperone every event that we participate in. Chaperones are responsible for riding on the bus, transporting the emergency bag, etc.

MONEY MATTERS

We have various fund-raising programs throughout the year. While these vary somewhat from year to year, we regularly have:

- Cow Chip Bingo, generally held in late September
- Restaurant nights
- 50/50 drawings
- Holiday Wrap Booth
- Gift Basket Raffle, held during the holiday concert
- The color guard may also opt to hold special fundraisers

It is important that all students participate in these fund raisers. The Color Guard program would not exist without these fund raising efforts.

A Booster meeting is held monthly, generally on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm in the band room. At this meeting budgets are discussed, committee reports are given, event pre-sale tickets may be sold, Booster clothing may be purchased and information is given about upcoming events. The fall season is a busy one and attending these meetings is a great way to stay informed.

We hope to see you at all of the performances. There is always a large contingency of El Dorado parents that attend these events. It is a great way to support your child, show your El Dorado pride and sponsor our booster program!