

Shiner HS Comanche Band

Color Guard Handbook & Tryout Information

2023-2024

Dear students and parents,

Thank you for showing an interest in the Shiner HS Band Color Guard for the 2023-2024 school year. We are looking for hard-working, highly motivated individuals with great attitudes who are dedicated to helping us create another unforgettable year with the Shiner Comanche Band. We would love for you to be a part of our success.

Color guard Practices for Tryouts

Practice Dates: Tue. 3/21 (5:30-6:30), Fri 3/24 (5:30-6:30), Mon 3/27 (5:30-6:30), Wed 3/29 (5:30-6:30)

Tryouts: Saturday, March 15, 2023

Attendance is required at all practice sessions to be allowed to tryout. If a SCHOOL function conflicts with any of these times, the student must let the color guard sponsor or band director know in advance. This includes notifying us of a late arrival or early dismissal prior to the date by contacting us in person, phone, email, or Band app. Attire for practices will be dress code appropriate athletic wear and shoes for outside.

Once the audition is complete, students who make color guard will need to sign up in the band app for the color guard group. We will get this information out to those students who make the guard for this year.

Thank you for your interest and we look forward to seeing you at the tryout practices. If you have questions, please contact either the color guard sponsor or a band director by phone or email.

Best Wishes!

Luci Pustka

Color Guard Sponsor

E-mail: lucipustka@gmail.com

Phone: (512) 227-4026

Zach Sims

Band Director

E-mail: simsz@shinerisd.net

Phone: (361) 594-3131 Ext. 462

Purpose and Membership

This brief manual has been composed to help all students and parents understand the expectations they must adhere to as a member of the High School Band Color Guard. The color guard is designed to add texture and dimension to our halftime marching show. The color guard will be required to abide by all UIL, School, and Comanche Band rules and policies. Membership shall be limited to students who have one year of marching band experience.

We are pleased that your child is interested in participating as a color guard member with the SHS Comanche Band. If your child is selected, there are expectations and obligations associated with membership that you must be aware of prior to tryouts.

Responsibilities

Color guard members are a direct reflection of themselves, their band, and their school. Below are expectations and standards that students will adhere to.

Shiner ISD Standards of Behavior

All expectations and regulations that have already been presented in the Shiner ISD Student Handbook and Student Code of Conduct must be followed at all times and precede all expectations set in this color guard handbook. Students are to follow all rules and policies set in the handbook at all band practices, as well as when traveling off campus with the band for a competition or other music related event sponsored by Shiner ISD. A copy of the Shiner ISD Code of Conduct will be issued to every student at the beginning of the school year.

Participation in school and school-related activities is an excellent way for a student to develop talents, receive individual recognition, and build strong friendships with other students. Participation, however, is a privilege, not a right. Eligibility for participation in many of these activities is governed by state law, as well as rules of the University Interscholastic League (UIL)—a statewide association overseeing inter-district competition. The following requirements apply to all extracurricular activities:

- A student who receives, at the end of any grade evaluation period, a grade below 70 in any academic class, other than identified honors or advanced by either the State Board of Education or by the local Board of Trustees, may not participate in extracurricular competitions for at least three school weeks.
- A student with disabilities who fails to meet the standards in the Individual Education Plan (IEP) may not participate for at least three school weeks.
- An ineligible student may practice or rehearse.
- A student is allowed in a school year up to ten absences not related to post-district competition, a maximum of five absences for post-district competition prior to state, and a maximum of two absences for state competition. All extracurricular activities and public performances, whether a UIL event or other activity approved by the Board, are subject to these restrictions.
- A student who misses a class because of participation in an activity that has not been approved will receive an unexcused absence.

Student Expectations

- Be committed to this program. Being a member of the color guard is an extra responsibility in addition to your commitment to the Shiner Comanche Band. In no way should your commitments to the color guard program out shadow your commitments to the band program.

- It is expected that students are respectful to their fellow band members, color guard sponsor, and to the band directors at all times. If respect isn't evident on behalf of the student, then some redirection will become necessary. If this continues to be a problem, the situation will be addressed with the principal.
- Be 100% ready to follow all instructions you are given. Always be willing to do what is asked of you. Realize that we are not asking anything that we would not expect from ourselves.
- If the severities of a student's actions are extreme, the student may be terminated from membership in the Shiner Comanche Band Color Guard. Extreme actions that merit removal from the program may include:
 - Insubordination related to the sponsor, director, or leadership crew
 - Disregard for the safety of themselves
 - Disregard for the safety of their fellow band members
 - Lack of commitment to the Shiner Band program
 - Abuse of school equipment and or color guard uniform
 - Behavior that might cast a poor reflection or damage the reputation of the Shiner Band
 - Any negative behavior toward the leadership crew, color guard sponsor, volunteers, Shiner ISD staff, or the directors of the Shiner Band
 - Severe discipline infractions

Band App

All color guard members and parents are expected to sign up for the band app. This application lets the sponsor and directors communicate with students and parents without personal contact information being shared. Important information, dates, and times will be shared through the band app.

Practices

Practices will consist of one practice a week for one to one and a half hours. All practices are mandatory and will be counted for a grade.

- Rehearsals are crucial to the success of the color guard. If a student were to miss a rehearsal, a signed doctor's note or parent's note **MUST** be brought to school the next day in order for the students' grade to not be lowered.
- If a student would need to miss rehearsal, the student must let the color guard director or band director know through the band app as to why they will miss the practice.

Excuses

Work, studying, transportation arrangements (whether you are the driver or rider), and special occasions (such as weddings, reunions, birthdays, appointments, etc.) are not valid excuses.

Illness is a legitimate excuse if preceded by a phone call, email, or message sent through Band App to the sponsor or band director. This includes being absent from school during the day. If any personal emergency conflicts with color guard responsibilities, the matter will be discussed with the sponsor. School related events are considered an excuse.

Uniform Selection/Requirements/Fittings

Every member who is selected to be in color guard will be fitted for a uniform within a few weeks after tryouts. Selection of uniforms will be made by the color guard sponsor and band director. Students will be responsible for paying for all parts to their uniform. The color guard sponsor and band director will provide the cost associated with the color guard uniform before auditions are held. The parts of their uniform will include:

- Split sole jazz sneakers
- Black pants
- A fitted top that will coordinate with the theme of the marching show
- Color Guard T-shirt

Fundraising

Each color guard member will have one fundraiser in a school year. This will help offset uniform costs or potential future camp costs. The fundraiser will begin after tryouts. The money raised will go into a group Color Guard account and dispersed as determined by the sponsor and/or Band Director.

Game Expectations

- The color guard will only perform at halftime.
- When the band leaves the stands to warm up before halftime, the color guard will leave and warm up with them.
- Once halftime is over, the color guard will have third quarter off along with the band.
- Students will return from breaks on time and be prepared to perform at the beginning of fourth quarter.
- Eating is only permitted during breaks.
- Members of the team are to obey the commands given by the color guard sponsor or band director.
- At any time, the sponsor and/or band director has the right to remove a color guard member from a performance when the member cannot demonstrate knowledge of the material being performed.
- Poor attitude can prevent a member from being allowed to perform, but he/she will dress out and sit with the band.
- At the beginning of the football season, if the Band is not wearing marching uniforms to a game, the Color Guard will wear their black pants, Guard T-shirt and performance shoes.

Social Media

Each member will uphold themselves, the color guard, band, directors, sponsors, and school with the highest respect. Any and everything involving a member, band, directors, sponsors, and/or the school will not be discussed or broadcasted on social media at any time. PERIOD! This includes, but is not limited to social media communications (text messaging, posts on Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, etc.). Anything posted which negatively includes another member of the color guard, and/or and including its directors and sponsors will result in possible suspension of the participating member, and possible further consequences at the discretion of the band director, color guard sponsor, and principal.

Amendments

Changes to this constitution shall be made by the sponsor with the approval of the band director. This handbook contains a great deal of required and useful information for all color guard participants and their parents. Any subject area not covered in depth or any decision to be made on procedures will be the sole responsibility of the color guard sponsor and band director.

Auditions

- All color guard members must tryout each year, even if they have previously served on the line. Each member is assured a position on the squad for only the school year involved.
- All candidates for the color guard line must be currently enrolled in band and in good standing with the band director and color guard sponsor BEFORE they are allowed to try out. ALL CANDIDATES must be academically eligible during the entire try out process. If a candidate becomes ineligible before tryouts, they will not be allowed to audition.
- All candidates for the color guard, along with a parent or guardian, must submit a signed contract agreeing to the rules and obligations of being a color guard. These forms will be turned in to the sponsor by a specific date.
- There shall be practice dates before the selection process begins. All candidates must attend the entire practice clinic as posted. Absence at a practice without prior notice and approval will result in the student's disqualification from the tryout.
- Students will try out in shorts, T-shirts, and tennis shoes.

- Tryouts will be closed to parents and to the public and will be judged by a panel of judges. The decisions of the judges will be final. The tryout results will be posted immediately following the tryouts. Copies of score sheets will be available at the request of the student or the parent.
- Tryouts will consist of the performance of basic fundamentals and a group routine. A list of required fundamentals for color guard will be available from the sponsor prior to tryouts.

Shiner HS Color Guard Application and Information

Applicant's Name: _____

Grade (2023-2024): _____

Address: _____

Parent's Name(s):

Home Phone: _____ Parent Cell: _____

Parent Email: _____

Medical Conditions:

Membership & Behavior Contract

Members of the SJH & SHS Band Program are held to a higher standard of conduct than the general student population. In addition to their personal responsibility, they also represent both the school and the community. All band activities are considered school functions.

I understand that any violation of the Student Code of Conduct resulting in a discipline referral may result in suspension from all performances for an indeterminate length of time and possible dismissal from the performing group. These offences include, but are not limited to: Truancy/Skipping, Inappropriate Clothing, Tardiness, Cell Phone/Electronics, Bus Infraction, Fighting, Disruptive Behavior, Disrespectful, Willful Disobedience, Alcohol/Drugs/Tobacco, Extortion, Profanity, Stealing, and Plagiarism/Cheating.

I have read and understand ALL contents of the Shiner Color Guard Handbook & Tryout Information and do agree with the terms of membership agreement stated therein.

By signing this form, I understand & agree to abide to the following rules & regulations:

- Expectations of all sections in handbook
- Tryouts- Mandatory Practices, Selection Process, Required Scores
- Financial Obligations
- Suspension, & Removal

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Sponsor Signature: _____

Date: _____

Director Signature: _____

Date: _____