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**Lafayette County High School**

**Winter Guard Membership Manual**

**2016-2017**

Dear Prospective Member,

Congratulations! You have taken the first step in becoming a member of the Lafayette County High School Winter Guard Program!

I can’t wait for the coming season and am excited that you have chosen to be involved in a sport which requires a great deal of responsibility, patience, hard work, time, and perseverance. This activity teaches leadership, responsibility, loyalty, teamwork, and builds self-esteem through competition and education. We believe that learning and improving these skills and traits will benefit you in everything you do later in life.

This packet contains important information in regards to your membership in this program. Please read it carefully to ensure you fully understand all rules, regulations, schedules, and other requirements. You do not need previous experience to become a member of the Winter Guard!After making the Winter Guard, each member’s specific role will be based on strength areas, equipment handling, attitude, work ethic, and attendance.

**ANY PARTICIPANT THAT DOES NOT RETURN THE ATTACHED THE SIGNATURE SHEET FORM WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED A MEMBER. PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN BY OUR FIRST REGULAR PRACTICE ON THUSRDAY NOVEMBER 10TH.**

**PLEASE CONTACT ME WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS!**

Mrs. Kelly Reuther

*Email: reutherk@huskers.k12.mo.us*

*Phone: 660-584-3661*

**STAY CONNECTED:**

* Request to be added to the “Lafayette County High School Guard” private Facebook page. This page is constantly updated with information for you!
* I will be using a text service to send reminders frequently. (Remind 101)
  + To receive messages via text, text @huskerwg to 81010.
* There is a “Winter Guard” tab on the band website (huskerbands.weebly.com), check in here for our calendar and other important information.

**REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS:**

1. Our rehearsals will be closed; absolutely NO spectators.

2. Attire: Comfortable work-out clothing. Items cannot be too baggy or they will get

in the way of your movement. Keep in mind that the school dress code will be in effect.

3. Hair should be worn up, so that it is pulled away from your face.

*(This may change as we get closer to performing our routine)*

4. Participants will experience a FUN and ENERGETIC rehearsals filled with

learning new skills. It is important that participants stay positive and do their

best at all times.

5. Members will be expected to turn off/silence ALL electronic devices (cell

phones, tablets, computers) during rehearsal. These may used during

breaks only.

**EXPENSES:**

Expenses discussed below are **estimated** and subject to change, however we do try to be as accurate as possible based on estimates and expectations. All efforts are made to keep the cost of participating in the group as low as possible. Some expenses, such as festival fees, transportation, etc., will be covered through the school. However, some costs will need to be paid for by the members. ***If for some reason a member leaves the team before the season is over, they are still required to finish paying their memberships fees.***

**Husker Winter Guard Membership Fees**

**To ensure that all students have the exact same materials, all items listed here will be ordered by the director and distributed to students at rehearsals. Students will keep all of these items when the season is over.**

Uniform: $75 – Our uniform is essential as it helps to express the mood and story of our show. Because of this, it will change from year to year. Students will be responsible for paying for their uniform. It will be theirs to keep when the season has finished.

Show Shirt: $10 – These will also depict the theme of our show and will be worn at many occasions including before and after our performances.

Dance Paws: $15 – These are small dance shoes that allow the performer to turn and manipulate their body well, while giving the visual of being barefoot.

**TOTAL: $100**

**Membership Fee Payment Schedule:**

In an effort to make the membership fees more manageable for your family’s budget,

a proposed payment schedule is posted below. If you would like to pay the **fee in full**

on the first date, that would be fine also. If the payment plan listed here will not

work for your circumstances, please notify a director so that we can work out a plan

that will fit your needs. We will also offer fundraising opportunities (detailed in the

next section) for students to earn credit towards their membership dues.

**Payment Plan**

Date Amount Due\_\_\_

11/15 $25

11/29 $25

12/20 $25

1/10 $25

**Fundraising Schedule:**

Date Event \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Participation\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

11/19 Baked Goods and Hot Proceeds will be divide equally

Chocolate Sale between students who work the event

12/5-12/12 Cookbook Sale Each students sales will go towards

their individual fees

**SPORTS PHYSICALS:**

You must have a sports physical on file BEFORE you can practice. Please turn this in to the main high school office before our first practice on Thursday, November 10th.

**EVALUATION:**

Staff members will evaluate guard members throughout rehearsals. Positions in the Winter Guard show will be determined by your performance and attitude during these rehearsals.

The guard will be divided into sections and **e**ach section will have different set of responsibilities during the Winter Guard show. All members will be assigned a position in the show by the staff. The staff will assign positions with the ability of the performer and the good of the entire group taken into consideration. The staff will make all final decisions about placement. A member can be moved to a new position depending upon performance level. Please respect the decision of the staff.

**ATTENDANCE:**

All guard members are expected to attend all rehearsals, performances, and scheduled activities. **Excused absences are only those which are an extreme family emergency, death in the immediate family, and illness.** It is very important to the ensemble that each member takes responsibility of notifying an instructor regarding conflicts prior to the date of the conflict. If you need to miss a guard activity due to an excused absence, you must notify the coach prior to the missed event. (email, remind, ect) The coach will then let you know if your absence will be considered “excused.” **Activities such as work, concerts, birthday parties, school dances, dance class, etc. will be counted as unexcused.**

In any case, an absence without proper notification will be considered unexcused. **Members may be dismissed from further participation and performances or removed from the show if this becomes a problem.** Absences of members hurt the other students in the performing unit. Even excused absences can become a problem when they become excessive. Remember, this group takes a lot of time and you should make sure you can meet all of the obligations for all of your activities before overloading yourself.

Members who do not attend the rehearsal prior to a competition will be benched for that competition. Also, any member who misses three or more rehearsals will be benched from the next competition. Members that are benched are still required to attend all rehearsals, camps, and competition days. Their specific role for the performance day will be decided by the staff.

**TARDINESS:**

Rehearsals will begin promptly at the time announced. We are certainly aware and respectful of the time involved with this group, and out of respect for all of our time (other members and staff), we need to have each member at rehearsals on time. This will allow us to accomplish everything we need, and we will all feel better about our product if we commit to being ***on time, every time****.*

**REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:**

Rehearsals are crucial to the winter season and attendance is MANDATORY.

Please note: an absence from a rehearsal COULD result in you not being in parts or segments of the program. This will make design and learning choreography more difficult, so please work these dates into your calendar carefully.

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED GUARD CALENDAR.

**TRANSPORTATION:**

We will take district school busses to each event. If you wish to sign-out after our performance, you may do so with your parent. If you are wanting to leave with someone other than your parent, you must have a letter signed by your parent and Mr. Whitney stating this is okay prior to the day of the event.

**ACADEMICS AND CITIZENSHIP:**

The Husker Winter Guard will adhere to the MSHAA guidelines outlining student eligibility.

**RULES AND GUIDELINES:**

* Disrespect to staff members or other members of the guard will be tolerated

* Inappropriate language will not be tolerated
* No gum, candy, or drinks (with the exception of water) at rehearsal
* You must bring all of your equipment to all rehearsals
* The equipment you will use during this season belongs to the school and has

been given to you to use. You will be expected to return the equipment in the state in which it was lent. Should you lose, or damage, a piece of equipment you will pay for the repair or replacement.

* Fighting, gossiping, name calling, lying, or stealing among members will not

be tolerated. Failure to comply can result in dismissal from the team

**MANUAL AGREEMENT FORM**

The signed signature sheet is your commitment to the group. We cannot assign a student a role until we know you are committed to the team. You do have the option of paying the full fee. Fundraisers will be offered during the season to help with the Membership Fee. If you have problems meeting the deadlines, please talk to me. Do not wait until the last minute to make arrangements. Fundraisers and arrangements can be utilized to assist you.

**Name of Participant:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

I, the parent/guardian of the above listed participant in the Lafayette County High School Winter Guard program, acknowledge that I have fully read and understand everything listed in the Lafayette County High School Winter Guard Manual 2016-2017. By signing below, I hereby agree to abide by the material listed in this manual.

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*Parent Signature Date*

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*Parent Email Phone*

I, the undersigned participant in the Lafayette County High School Winter Guard program, have fully read and understand everything listed in the Lafayette County High School Winter Guard Manual 2015-2016. By signing below, I hereby agree to abide by the material listed in this manual.

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*Student Signature Date*