

PCHS Winterguard Handbook
2024-2025

NEW COLORGUARD LOGO COMING SOON!

Sponsor: Ms. Rosen (Rachel.Rosen@hcps.net)

Directors: Bonnie Vance and Megan Silvey

Designer: Michael James

VISION

Plant City High School Winterguard exists to foster positive experiences for all who participate, by promoting education, creativity, and freedom of expression through pageantry and the performing arts. We, the members of the Plant City High School Winterguard, perform as a visual unit that strives for excellence, education, and entertainment for our audience and members of the team. We promote growth, a sense of family, and responsibility within the organization.

MISSION STATEMENT AND COMPETITIVE PHILOSOPHY

We want our athletes to learn to compete because we want them to compete for the best jobs. We want them to learn how to create and maintain a great team culture because we want them to build strong family cultures in their adult lives. We want them to learn to both lead and follow because our country needs them to be the next generation of leaders and listeners. We want them to learn to commit and sacrifice because we want them to become reliable and devoted people. We want them to learn to be accountable, selfless, disciplined, mentally tough athletes, as these are qualities that will benefit them far into their futures.

Our competitive philosophy is rooted in these ideals of becoming better versions of ourselves. Though we will regularly be adjudicated by professionals who give us important feedback, we also utilize frequent self-adjudication to continue growing in our abilities. We ask our members to put their best foot forward through individual and team preparation. Though competitive success is fulfilling and exciting, our true purpose of competition is to encourage growth.

DEFINITION OF MEMBERSHIP

Members of the Winterguard program fall into two categories:

Eurythmics Students are students who are currently enrolled in Ms. Rosen's 1st period Eurythmics class. They receive a grade for Winterguard and are **REQUIRED** to participate fully in the competitive season.

Non-Eurythmics Students are students who cannot be enrolled in the Eurythmics class period. These students **MUST** be members of the band program in some capacity.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

All members of the Winterguard are required to pay season dues which cover the costs of show design, staff, uniforms, travel accommodations, equipment, and numerous other details that allow us to operate sufficiently. Membership dues for the 2025 season will be \$250.

Band fees from the fall must be paid BEFORE winter season. It is sufficient for students to be on a payment plan, but these conversations must happen prior to the start of the winter season. Wind band students may be denied from participation in Winterguard if they have not demonstrated effort to pay off their fall band fees.

Due Date: Amount Due:

Due Date:	Amount Due:
October 25 th , 2024	All former band fees due, per deadline in band handbook
November 22 nd , 2024	Winterguard installment 1: \$150
December 13 th , 2024	Winterguard installment 2: \$50
January 17 th , 2025	Winterguard installment 3: \$50

If dues are not turned in on dates outlined above, the member will be placed on the school debt list. Students on the debt list are unable to attend events like homecoming and will not receive their diploma upon graduation until all debts are paid.

Payment plans are available for students who need more time to pay off their fees. Inquire about a payment plan by emailing pchsraiderregiment@gmail.com.

All fees will be regularly updated through CutTime. Parents and members should check there first to see remaining financial obligations.

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

Throughout the course of the Winterguard season, members will be provided opportunities to participate in fundraising activities. In some cases, members are able to fundraise enough money to offset a significant amount of their membership fees. Past examples of fundraisers include restaurant nights, tumblers, T-shirt / Hoodie Sales, and more! Details regarding fundraising will be given out throughout the season. The goal is to have at least one fundraiser per month for students to participate in.

It is expected that students who cannot pay their fees outright will participate in every available fundraising opportunity.

COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Students must check daily for communications from coaches and staff. Please do NOT mute or block messages from staff!
- CutTime should be checked weekly in preparation for the weekend
- Proper email etiquette is expected
- **Students should not have an unapproved Winterguard group chat. This means no team chats without an approved adult present in the chat.**

ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITY

Winterguard students are expected to maintain a strong academic record. Beyond an investment to your own future, we want the Winterguard team to be considered role models among the school population. Students will complete regular academic progress checks with the directors. Should a member begin to fall behind in their academics, they may be required to attend tutoring prior to rehearsals.

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The highest leadership position in the Winterguard program is the Captain. The Colorguard Captain(s) are selected at the same time as the rest of the band leadership in May of each school year via an application process. Colorguard Captains serve in their role through the entire marching and winter season. A Colorguard Captain should be a role model for the rest of the group, always displaying the highest conduct on and off the floor. In addition to being technically proficient in movement, equipment, and performance, they should also display good judgement and personal character. The Colorguard Captain should be high-achieving and represent the guard through unwavering positive attitude and school spirit. The Colorguard Captain should ensure every member of the team feels important, valued, and connected.

The Winterguard coaches may choose to add additional leadership positions at the beginning of the season. The positions added and the means of selection are up to the coach's discretion.

UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

Students will receive a uniform, likely in January. This uniform belongs to the student and is their responsibility to care for and clean. Specific care instructions will be provided when the student receives the uniform. The student will be financially responsible for any damage, tears, or stains on the uniform (uniforms range from \$150-\$200 to replace). A ruined uniform may also result in the student being benched from competing.

Students will also be lent equipment, including, but not limited to flags, rifles, and sabres. These items are the property of the Plant City High School Colorguard program and are to be returned at the end of the season. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of this equipment and to keep it in working order. Should a student break or damage their equipment, outside of expected wear and tear, they will be financially responsible for replacing the item.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is **required** at all rehearsals, performances, etc. The minimum expectation is 100% attendance. Any member who is absent makes the team less effective and has an adverse effect on the morale of the group.

Absences fall into 3 categories, listed below. It is up to the discretion of the directors to determine which category an absence falls into if it is not specified below.

- **Excused Absences: Difficult circumstances that require a student to miss a rehearsal.**

- **Requirement:** Excused absences must be emailed by a parent or guardian prior to the event and as soon as they are aware of the absence.
- **Examples:**
 - Sickness that resulted in an excused absence for the school day
 - Severe family emergencies (e.g. death in the family, family member in hospital, etc. at the discretion of the director)
- **Consequence:** No consequence.

- **Permitted Absences: Any acceptable and documented absence that doesn't fall into the "excused" category.**

- **Requirement:** Permitted absences must be emailed by a parent or guardian at least 48 hours prior to the event.
- **Examples:**
 - Doctor's appointments
 - Sickness that is unexcused from school
 - Once-in-a-lifetime events (weddings, family trips, etc.)
- **Consequence:** Students will complete a makeup assignment, which will be due within a week of the absence. Failure to complete the makeup assignment on time will result in a 0 for Eurythmics students. Failure to complete the makeup assignment on time may result in dismissal from the program for non-Eurythmics students.

- **Unexcused Absences: Any absence that does not fall into the other two categories.**

- **Examples:**
 - No email excuse was sent by a parent/guardian prior to the event.
 - Work
 - "My mom said I can't go"
 - Grounded
 - Didn't have a ride
 - Didn't know we had rehearsal/performance
- **Consequences:** Eurythmics students will receive a 0 in the grade book. Non-Eurythmics students will be considered for dismissal from the Winterguard program.

TARDIES: Members who arrive at rehearsal after the assigned call-time by the Director will be marked tardy. This will automatically reduce the student's grade to an 80% if it is an unexcused tardy. If a member arrives to rehearsal more than fifteen minutes after the assigned call-time, the tardy becomes an absence and will be subject to the absence policy above.

Any member who reaches a pattern of tardies or absences may be dismissed from the program.

Performances will NEVER be considered an excused absence. Performances may be considered a "permitted" absence for unavoidable situations that have been emailed to Ms. Rosen by December 1st, 2024.

REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE

- Profanity is not tolerated during any rehearsal.
- Once rehearsal begins, do not talk while in designated rehearsal areas, unless you are answering a question from or asking a question of instructional staff.
- Student leadership will be called upon to fulfill numerous responsibilities including: cleaning choreography, suggesting clean counts, leading sectionals, and ensuring that rehearsals run smoothly. These leaders were chosen for a purpose and must be given the same respect as instructional staff to ensure a productive rehearsal.
- Rehearsal is NOT a time to practice. Practice happens at home, while rehearsal is meant to put everything together and teach new information. **Please come prepared.** Once a coach has taught you the work, it is expected that you will learn it prior to the next rehearsal.
- Please leave any other outside issues or personal concerns behind.
- Setting up for rehearsal will begin 15 minutes before each scheduled rehearsal, unless otherwise noted. All members are expected to be present at that time. Likewise, tearing down, and cleaning up for rehearsal will extend 15 minutes past rehearsal time. All members are expected to stay until dismissed by the Director or Leadership.
- Cell phones and other electronic devices should be on silent, in a bag along the wall, and only accessed during breaks.
- Rehearsal facilities are usually rented or donated for our program's use. You are responsible for treating the facility with the utmost care and respect. Keep it clean!
- Members must be dressed in appropriate workout attire, all-black clothing. Hair should be pulled out of the face.
- Should a member need additional breaks due to injury or sickness, please communicate with coaches. Your safety is our number one priority.
- Members who need improvement with rehearsal expectations will be notified verbally by coaches or staff. Improvement is expected immediately, otherwise risk to membership and performance eligibility

PERFORMANCE DAY CONDUCT

- All members must report on time at the location designated by the Director. At this point, members should be in the attire specified by the director and have ALL the required items for their performance day.
- Always conduct yourself professionally. You are representing Plant City High School and our colorguard program from the second you arrive at the performance location until the second you leave.
- Profanity is not tolerated at any point from the arrival at the competition until you leave.
- Always travel with a partner or group.
- All members must be in attendance for the entire competition day, including all warmup, performance, watching other groups, and retreat unless previously excused by the Director.
- In the stands, members will sit together as decided by the Director and Captains. Treat all other groups with respect and support, whether they are performing or not.
- Simple stud earrings are allowed on competition days. Any other visible piercings or jewelry must be removed.
- All members will help load and unload all props, equipment, floor, etc. at every show unless excused by the Director.
- Uniforms must be worn COMPLETELY and correctly at all times in a performance venue from arrival to departure. Only the Director is authorized to make changes to the uniform, whether this is due to heat or unforeseen circumstances.
- PCHS Winterguard and its staff are not responsible for lost or stolen property. It is the member's responsibility to keep track of personal belongings and equipment.

TYPICAL PERFORMANCE DAY SCHEDULE

We do not receive a schedule with performance times from FFCC until the week of each competition. This means you should reserve the whole day of each competition, with the expectation that we could perform at any time. As soon as we receive the schedule from FFCC, a detailed schedule be sent out via CutTime. A typical competition schedule will look something like this:

~2-3 hours prior to performance: Arrive at competition. Unless stated otherwise, we typically do not provide transportation to competitions. It is up to students and families to arrange their own transportation. Meet as a team at the trailer. Unload floor and equipment as a group. We may have some time to watch some groups perform.

1 hour prior to performance: Move as a team to warmup. Parents may NOT come with the team to watch warmups- we will see you after the show!

Perform!

Immediately following performance: Fold floor, reload trailer, gather belongings. We will then return to watch the rest of the performances until our retreat (awards ceremony). This could take anywhere from a few minutes to a few hours, depending on the number of groups performing.

Dismissal: Students will be dismissed AFTER retreat by a coach. At this point, students will no longer be under the supervision of PCHS Winterguard staff. It is expected that their ride is prompt with pickup. FFCC events RARELY run behind and are typically following a strict schedule- it is safe to assume the given pickup time each week will be very accurate.

CHAMPIONSHIPS

FFCC Championships are held at the Daytona Beach Ocean Center from March 27th-30th, 2025. It is expected, though not guaranteed, that we will perform on Friday, March 28th. Like all FFCC competitions, the performance schedule is not released until the week prior to the competition. Because we will not know the performance schedule until close to the date of the event, many winterguard families choose to book hotels in advance to avoid very early drives. Hotel rooms are NOT included in fees and will not be organized by the program. Transportation to this event is also NOT included. We strongly encourage families to organize their transportation and housing well in advance.

Students will be under the supervision of Plant City High School coaches and staff from their warmup call time until the end of retreat on the day we compete. Outside of this time, students are not supervised by our staff. It is up to parents/guardians to oversee students who are spending any additional time in Daytona or at the Ocean Center outside of supervised hours.

2024-2025 REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Should we need to change any of these rehearsal dates, we will communicate changes at least 2 weeks in advance.

<p>October: Monday 28th 4:00pm-8:00pm</p>	<p>January: Thursday 9th 4:00pm-7:00pm Monday 13th 3:00pm-7:00pm Thursday 16th 4:00pm-7:00pm Friday 17th 4:00pm-6:00pm Thursday 23rd 4:00pm-7:00pm Friday 24th 4:00pm-7:00pm Monday 27th 3:00pm-7:00pm Thursday 30th 4:00pm-7:00pm</p>
<p>November: Friday 1st 4:00pm-9:00pm (DESIGN DAY W/ MICHAEL JAMES. NO ABSENCES WILL BE EXCUSED OR PERMITTED)</p> <p>Monday 4th 4:00pm-8:00pm Friday 8th 4:00pm-7:00pm Thursday 14th 4:00pm-7:00pm Friday 15th 4:00pm-7:00pm</p> <p>Saturday 16th (Time TBD) (DESIGN DAY W/ MICHAEL JAMES. NO ABSENCES WILL BE EXCUSED OR PERMITTED)</p> <p>Monday 18th 4:00pm-8:00pm Thursday 21st 4:00pm-7:00pm</p>	<p>February: Monday 3rd 3:00pm-7:00pm Thursday 30th 4:00pm-7:00pm Monday 10th 3:00pm-7:00pm Thursday 13th 4:00pm-7:00pm Thursday 20th 4:00pm-7:00pm Friday 21st 4:00pm-6:00pm Monday 24th 3:00pm-7:00pm Thursday 27th 4:00pm-7:00pm Friday 28th 4:00pm-6:00pm</p>
<p>December: Monday 2nd 4:00pm-8:00pm Thursday 5th 4:00pm-7:00pm Monday 9th 4:00pm-8:00pm Thursday 12th 4:00pm-7:00pm</p>	<p>March: Thursday 6th 4:00pm-7:00pm Friday 7th 4:00pm-7:00pm Thursday 13th 4:00pm-7:00pm Friday 14th 4:00pm-7:00pm Monday 24th 3:00pm-7:00pm Thursday 27th 4:00pm-8:00pm</p>

2025 PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Date:	Event:	Location:
January 18 th , 2025	FFCC - Premiere	Lakewood Ranch High School
February 8 th , 2025	FFCC - Show	Plant City High School
February 17 th , 2024	FFCC- Show	Countryside High School
March 1 st , 2024	FFCC- Show	Freedom High School Tampa
March 8 th . 2024	FFCC- Show	Braden River High School
March 28-30, 2024 (Official schedule & date announced later, we will probably perform on Friday)	FFCC Championships	Ocean Center, Daytona Beach, FL

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Choreography and aspects of design taught during the colorguard and/ or winterguard season is property of the program and should not be lifted and/or taught to outside programs or people without prior permission.

Acknowledgement

By signing below, I as a performer and Parent/Guardian understand the contents of this handbook and will maintain and abide by everything disclosed above.

Performer Printed: _____

Performer Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____