

PARENT HANDBOOK



HILLSBOROUGH GUARD

2011 - 2012

Guard Staff

Director: Joe Dobis (joedobis@gmail.com)

Instructors: Joe Dobis, Anthony Tanasy, George Mattis, Jessie Skinner-Simon, ML Lawson,

Captains: Courtney Johnson, Sarah Limyansky and Carli Jones. (At the start of each academic year new guard captains are selected by the Director of Bands and Color Guard Director.)

About the Director:

Joe was born in Saginaw, Michigan and started guard in High School there. From 1999 – 2000 he performed with Third Edition color guard, and with Carolina Crown Drum Corps in 2000. In 2001 Joe moved to the East Coast so that he could perform with the Independent World (IW) color guard Just Class then moved to Blessed Sacrament Colorguard for 2002-2003, 2007. It was during his time with these IW color guards that he met the other Hillsborough guard instructors. Together, Joe and the instructors have over 120 years of experience in color guard, either teacher or performing themselves.

Joe graduated from Georgian Court University and is currently a Social Studies teacher in Franklin High School whilst also studying for his Masters degree.

Guard Operations Management: Sian Godwin (sian.godwin@comcast.net), Rick Ball (rsball@comcast.net).

Director of Bands: Mrs Julie “Jules” Haran (jharan@hillsborough.k12.nj.us)
Mrs Jamie Palas (jpallas@hillsborough.k12.nj.us)

HBPA Officers and Committee Chair People:

President	June Blauvelt	junecb@verizon.net
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Hillsborough Guard members participate in **Colorguard** from August to October and Winterguard from November to April

In our spare time we practice ☺

***Guard is a great sport and art to join.
It's one of the few activities that doesn't require a certain gender or height.
Plus, you'll make friends, memories, and muscles!***

Join guard...it's worth it!!

Color Guard

The history of Color Guard

Way back in the day, during the English reign around the Civil War period, they had pipers and drummers. These people always accompanied the soldiers to keep them in beat and keep their spirits up. Well, along with the band, they always sent a soldier to carry their "colors". Here began the first guardsmen. After time, the idea caught on and it began to develop. Soon every army had people to bare their colors. It eventually evolved into what we have today through USA's military marching band. It was decided that that there was plenty of good music to please the ear, but there was nothing really to please the eye. This is where we got our modern guard line. It started from fierce battle cries and pride of ones colors, to show stopping sensations that accompany marching bands every where. They still serve many purposes, but the most useful purpose is to bare your colors with pride. ***That is Color Guard!***

The award-winning Hillsborough Raider Marching Band is made up of a dedicated ensemble of musicians and color guard members who work together as an ensemble emphasizing performance in field show production.

The Marching Band competes at various United States Scholastic Band Association (USSBA) competitions in the area, as well as regional, state and multi-state championship competitions. They also perform at all of the Hillsborough High School football games.

The Season:

For the Color Guard, marching band begins its season in May, several practices are conducted to acquaint the incoming freshmen and other new guard members with the way the band operates. The Color Guard perfects its techniques during the summer and is joined by the rest of the band in August. The end of August brings band camp, followed by the beginning of the school year and marching band season! The season concludes with National Championships in Annapolis, Maryland (November).

Practices:

All members are expected to be at their scheduled rehearsals whenever they are in town. If your family has vacation plans, please notify Joe at least two weeks in advance. Beginning with band camp at the end of August, all rehearsals for the rest of the season are mandatory.

Camps:

There are 3 mandatory camps for the Color Guard:

- Guard Camp – held at Hillsborough High School; July 25 – July 29, 10am – 3pm each day.
- Mini Camp – for the full Marching Band at Hillsborough High School: Aug 22 – 24 12pm – 8pm
- Band Camp - at Lake Greeley Camp, Greeley, PA (venue may change); Aug 28 – Sept1. At 6pm on Thursday September 1 the Hillsborough Raider Marching Band will give the first performance of their 2011 show for families and friends, upon return from camp.

Rehearsal Etiquette:

In general rehearsals are closed to spectators. There will however be designated times during the season when you may be invited to a rehearsal to observe your students progress, details are sent out via e-mail close to the date.

Performances:

Prior to performances only authorized individuals are permitted in the band room. The band's performance at games begins at pre-game and does not end until the students return to the

school after the game. During a competition, the performance extends from their arrival and warm-ups, until they have left the field after they compete.

Performance Times:

Beginning in September, the marching band performs at all of the Hillsborough High School football games, both home and away. At home games, they usually perform at half-time, and at away games they usually perform right before the game. They will also be competing at a number of USSBA events from late September through mid-November.

Dates of all games and competitions are listed on the calendar that the students will be given during the June practices, most are on Saturdays, but a few are on Sunday evenings.

Specific times for football game performances and competitions may not be available until right before the event. As a result, detailed weekend schedules including meal, rehearsal, travel and performance times will be provided at the Monday or Wednesday rehearsal prior to the event.

Dress for the Occasion:

Marching Band is an outdoor activity, and both you and your child need to be prepared for the weather. During the summer rehearsals sunscreen is required but as we progress through the season Rain Happens! So does cold and wind. What looks like a beautiful day in the morning can be miserable if you're not prepared for a drastic drop in temperature. You and your child may want a blanket and warm gloves for use in the bleachers.

Uniforms:

Rehearsals – The color guard is required to wear black clothing to all rehearsals, shorts and T-shirts at the start of the season progressing to longer trousers and hoodies at the end of the season. Sneakers should be worn for all rehearsals.

Performances - The color guard uniform changes year to year, to go along with the show's theme. The guard members will be provided with details either just before or just after band camp. The guard is also provided with red raincoats which can be worn when not performing. It is essential that every part of the uniform arrive with your child prior to a scheduled performance. This includes raincoats even though there is no threat of rain or snow. Members are responsible for the cost of accessories such as gloves, makeup, undergarments and hair styling products.

Uniform Care - Both guard uniforms and raincoats should be machine washed, gentle cycle, and hung to dry.

Colorguard

"To those who understand... no explanation needed.

To those who don't... no explanation possible"

Winter Guard

Winter Guard is an indoor color guard activity, derived from the outdoor marching band activity. Instead of performing as a visual accent to the marching band, each Winter Guard team picks its own music to perform to. This helps to encourage individuality. Winter guard teams are judged, not only on talent and precision, but also on creativity. There are multiple ways that winter guards perform. They can use various equipment (flags, rifles and sabers), props, and dance moves.

This is a great opportunity to develop poise and grace alongside a sense of rhythm and showmanship. Along with the aspects of performance, the winter guard members learn life skills such as discipline, dedication, leadership and teamwork. In the process, strong friendships will also develop.

Practices start in November almost immediately after marching band competition season ends and continue through to the end of April. Most people who join Winter Guard are members of the marching band's color guard ensemble, band members are also invited to join. Experience is not required.

Practices:

The Winter Guard practices twice a week, usually on a Tuesday evening and on Saturdays prior to a competition. Members are required to wear all black clothing (shorts or leggings and a T-shirt) to practices as it makes it easier for the instructors see their body lines. As practices are indoors no specific footwear is required.

The last 15 minutes of a rehearsal is generally open to spectators.

Performances:

The Hillsborough Winter Guard competes in two competition circuits: Winter Guard International (<http://www.wgi.org/>) and Mid-Atlantic Indoor Network (<http://www.mainguards.com/>). These competitions provide an exciting opportunity to perform for large audiences and involve travel to venues across the East Coast, including Connecticut, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.

Our fundraising activities help to cover the cost of travel to these events.

Specific times for performances at competitions may not be available until right before the event. As a result, detailed weekend schedules including meal, rehearsal, travel and performance times will be sent out via e-mail during the early part of the week prior to each event.

Uniforms:

Uniforms vary from season to season to reflect the theme of the performance. Details are provided at the beginning of the winter guard season. Members are responsible for the cost of accessories such as gloves, makeup, undergarments and hair styling products.

Spectator Information:

Whether we are at a football game, Marching Band competition or Winter Guard competition, it is very important that our kids hear us cheering and supporting them. At competitions, hearing us cheering can actually help improve their performance!

Winter Guard Achievements

2011 Main - Scholastic A Silver Medalists

2011 WGI – Scholastic A

Eastern Colorguard Championships Bronze Medalists

South Brunswick Regional Bronze Medalists

Pittsburgh Regional Silver Medalists

2010 WGI South Brunswick Power Regional Finalist

2009 WGI Salem Regional Finalist

2009 WGI Trumbull Power Regional Finalist

2008 TIA Chapter 10 Silver Medalist

2007 TIA “All Chapter” Scholastic A Silver Medalists

2007 Main Scholastic A Silver Medalists

2005 & 2006 TIA “All Chapter” Scholastic A Bronze Medalists

2005, 2006 & 2007 TIA Scholastic A Chapter 10 Champions

2005 & 2006 MAIN Scholastic A Bronze Medalists

2004 MAIN Scholastic AA Silver Medalists



COMPETITIONS

1. MARCHING BAND

Bands are categorized into Groups or “*Classifications*” and their performances are judged against other bands within that Group. The total number of band and auxiliary (color guard) members determines classifications. A panel of judges evaluates and awards the Marching Bands at competitions based on the following criteria:

- ♪ Visual Performance
- ♪ Musical Performance
- ♪ Overall Effect

Perfect Visual, Musical and Overall Effect scores sum 100 points.

Additional caption award categories may include:

“*Best Visual (Marching)*”, “*Best Percussion*”, “*Best Auxiliary*”, and “*Best Guard*”.

All bands must perform in at least two USSBA sanctioned competitions in order to attend Championships.

Championships:

This year we are scheduled to compete in:

USSBA NJ State Championships

Bands of America Regional Championships – Towson, MD

The dates are listed on the calendar provided during the June practices. The trip to Towson for BOA Regionals will be an overnight trip. Details will be provided as they become available.

Championship details can be found on the web at:

for USSBA – www.yea.org and select the USSBA link.

for BOA – www.marching.com and select events link for BOA regionals

Students will be given the opportunity to participate in fundraising events to help defray the expenses of these overnight trips.

Color Guard

The *Color Guard or Auxiliary* consists of the marching band members who provide the “*Visual Effects*” of the band show. The Color Guard members enhance the band performance with professionally choreographed dance routines and colorful flags, rifles, sabers, and other field accessories to compliment the show’s theme. The Color Guard is an integral part of the HHS Raider Marching Band.

2. WINTER GUARD

The Hillsborough Winter Guard competes in two competition circuits:

WGI - Winter Guard International (<http://www.wgi.org/>)

MAIN - Mid-Atlantic Indoor Network (<http://www.mainguards.com/>).

These competitions provide an exciting opportunity to perform for large audiences and involve travel to venues across the East Coast, including Connecticut, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.

Competition Classifications:

All WGI contests provide two divisions of competition:

Scholastic - units whose membership comes from the SAME High School or a school that feeds to that particular High School.

Independent - units whose members are not necessarily associated with a particular school.

The units are then further divided into classes:

- A Class – Beginning programs and performers.
- Open Class - The intermediate developmental level of performers.

The Hillsborough Winter Guard competes as a Scholastic A Guard (SA)

Guards are judged in four captions:

Equipment – Judges must look into the range and depth of the choreographic efforts of the flags, rifles, sabers, and non-traditional equipment along with the training and technical achievement of the performers.

Movement – Similar to the equipment judges, this caption analyzes the vocabulary and technique of the dancing and motion of the performers, with and without equipment.

Ensemble Analysis – The quality of the overall design and the depth of the composition of the program as a whole is critiqued here, This caption takes a close look at the expressive excellence of the performers.

General effect – Rewarding the groups efforts in creating effects and "events" throughout their program is 40% of the entire score. This caption encompasses the entire package of design, musical interpretation, emotion, aesthetics and how the show is brought to life through the performers.

At the end of each competition the guard directors are given copies of the judge's comments and suggestions. These are then used to modify the show for future competitions. As a consequence the show looks very different by the end of the season, keeping the interest of both the guard and the spectators and giving the performers something new to strive for each week.

Championships:

This year we are scheduled to compete in:

WGI Regional – at least 2 regionals, one of which would involve an overnight stay.

WGI Championships – in Dayton, Ohio, a 3 day trip

MAIN Championships – held at South Brunswick High School

The dates are listed on the calendar provided during June practices.

For the overnight trips details will be provided as they become available.

Championship details can be found on the MAIN and WGI websites

Students will be given the opportunity to participate in fundraising activities to help defray the expense of overnight trips.

Hillsborough Band Parents Association (HBPA)

Website

You can get the latest information for any of our activities from our website:

www.hhs-band.org

The username and password is "indeed".

The Mission of the HBPA is to provide support and services for the enhancement of the Hillsborough High School band and color guard programs. The Hillsborough School District is supportive of our band and guard programs, but with the support of the HBPA our students have even more opportunities to learn musicianship, teamwork and leadership. The HBPA serves our students in the following capacities:

- ◆ Organizes and carries out HBPA fundraising events
- ◆ Provides assistance and support at football games, competitions and band camp
- ◆ Promotes support and involvement in the band and color guard programs by informing other parents and the community of events scheduled throughout the year
- ◆ Encourages, supports, cheers, and congratulates students involved in all areas of the band and guard program.

Membership in the HBPA is open to all parents and other interested friends who want to support all the great work our kids do.

Fundraising:

Each year a number of fundraising events are conducted; some by the students and some by the HBPA. They are generally grouped into three categories:

- ◆ Student Fundraising (through school)
- ◆ Band Council fundraising (through school)
- ◆ HBPA Fundraising, which includes the Raider Marching Band Festival and the Winter Guard Festival

It is a very ambitious schedule, and we need every parent to help make the year a success!

How to Get Involved;

Attend Band Parent Meetings: By staying informed, you can learn how best to support the kids! Meetings are generally the first Wednesday of each month

Attend football games, marching band and color guard events: The kids love to hear their fans cheering for them.

Join the Pit Crew: During each football game, marching band competition and winter guard competition we need at least 10 people to serve as the "Pit Crew" to:

- ◆ load and unload the equipment truck before and after all away football games and competitions.
- ◆ lift and set up any props and the winter guard floor for all competitions and some rehearsals.

Be a demonstrative fan. During competitions we need loud, vocal supporters sitting in close proximity of each other to show our kids how much they are supported and appreciated.

And finally.....JUST ASK

Don't be afraid to ask what seems to be a "dumb question". If this is new to you, please remember that it was once new to the experienced members as well!

We all realize the more you know about the guard activities and the Band Parents Association, the more you'll feel comfortable about getting involved. So ask -- we'll be delighted to help.

30 Ways to tell you are in Guard.....

- 1. You walk on step to all music you hear.**
- 2. You spin pencils/pens/mops/brooms/pool cues, etc.**
- 3. You have a drawer full of flag t-shirts.**
- 4. You're constantly involved in fund raisers (wanna buy a candy bar?)**
- 5. The term attitude has lost all meaning.**
- 6. You know where every high school in your circuit is located.**
- 7. You are an expert at assembling backdrops.**
- 8. When you hear a song you've done a routine to you get ecstatic.**
- 9. You count all music to beats of 6 or 8.**
- 10. You've seen 3:30 in the morning many times.**
- 11. Separate checks in a restaurant are the best thing to ever happen to you.**
- 12. You're lucky if your instructor gets your name right.**
- 13. You're considered lucky if your instructor noticed your haircut.**
- 14. You know how to wrap your own bandages.**
- 15. You have a flag callus on your right palm under your small finger.**
- 16. You have a permanent rifle bruise on your left and right thumbs.**
- 17. You have more inside jokes than any of your other friends.**
- 18. You can smile genuinely on command.**
- 19. Your priorities are slightly askew.**
- 20. You have an excuse for everything.**
- 21. You can catch anything thrown at you.**
- 22. You can do your hair and make-up anywhere.**
- 23. You can change in to your uniform anywhere.**
- 24. Every song becomes a possible flag routine.**
- 25. You know the perfect spot for a toss in your favorite songs.**
- 26. Finals are a positive thing.**
- 27. Your calluses are less stressful than practice.**
- 28. You know that "one more time" never means one more time.**
- 29. The soles of your practice shoes have holes in them from doing too many turns.**
- 30. You've left your house wearing things you swore you never would, like hair curlers, spandex, 2 tons of makeup, etc.**