

2024-2025
Cypress Ridge



Color Guard
Handbook

Cypress Ridge High School

Color Guard Information and Requirements

Welcome to Cypress Ridge Color Guard!

You are each unique in your own way, but to make a complete picture, you must come together as a team - all interdependent - THIS IS WHAT THE GUARD IS ALL ABOUT!

Leadership Team

- Color Guard Director: Daniel Matias - in charge of show design, flag design, prop design, uniform design, choreography, all things related to Color Guard.
- Band Director: Armando Robledo - in charge of all Bands.

What do I need to know?

There are a couple of important things to know about how this family works. Now, you and your family are a part of The Cypress Ridge High School Band Family. One Band, One Program: The Cypress Ridge High School Band is "ONE BAND". This means that no matter what grade, instrument you play, if you're in guard, or if you're a percussionist, the entire band functions as one unit. Cypress Ridge Band Booster Club (CRBBC) is a cooperative effort of parents, alumni, volunteers and the directors. CRBBS assists in many aspects of the band program. Parents are highly encouraged to attend the CRBCC meetings, volunteer, and be part of their child's band/guard experience.

Communication

Band Director:

Armando Robledo
Armando.robledo@cfisd.net
(281) 807 -8019 (CR Band Hall)

Color Guard Director:

Daniel Matias
Daniel.matiasacevedo@cfisd.net
(281) 807 -8019 (CR Band Hall); 346-599-3512 (personal)

Cypress Ridge High School Band website is <https://www.cyridgeband.com>. This site should be visited often. This is one of the best ways to stay up to date with what is happening with the band and to obtain detailed information. There is a calendar available there as well.

- **Guard Communication:** There is a Cypress Ridge Color Guard Remind. The guard officers use this method of social networking to communicate up to date information and/or changes directly related to the Guard member.
- **Email:** You will receive emails regarding all information Band/Color Guard related. Please make sure that we have a current email address for you at all time. More details to come over the summer on how YOU can get involved and support the Cypress Ridge Marching Band Program! **Please check your email and remind app daily!**

Color Guard Fees & Financial Requirements:

Each year, Color Guard fee schedule will be provided. These amount vary from year to year. Fees are broken down into several payments to make it convenient for the parents. The prices are slightly inflated to cover taxes and/or the possibility that the uniform costs is slightly more than expected. This is the cost for Fall and Winter season and once payment is made, it is **NON-REFUNDABLE**. Any major concerns can be brought to the attention of the director

Color/Winter Guard Class Period:

It must be understood that the student must enroll in both the Color and Winter Guard class period. YOU CANNOT BE IN GUARD WITHOUT BEING IN THE CLASS PERIOD. This class is held during 7th period in both the fall and spring semesters. The Guard will "dress out" for every class period. This a part of the daily grade. There will be additional grades based on tests over equipment work, completion of assignments. Failure to participate in these activities will result in either failure of the class and or going to alternate status. Students receive a P.E. credit for color guard in the fall. In the spring, the color guard class is a state elective credit and counts toward graduation.

Grades & Academic Requirements:

Academic achievement is the number one priority of the CRCG. If a student fails at any time, they will be removed from the show for the rest of the season and put on probation, which will result in an alternate position. To ensure grades are staying consistent, a weekly grade check will complete every Friday.

Respect:

At Cypress Ridge we treat each member, officer, staff, and volunteer with respect no matter what! Whenever someone is speaking, no one else should be talking or spinning equipment. Undermining anyone will be not tolerated, and in the extreme situations, will lead to alternate status or dismissal from the groups. Any issue a member has with another member, officer, or staff must discuss a situation of the guard director. If the member does not feel comfortable talking with a parent we can either set up an appointment to discuss any issues. The stuff will always be positive with the group, but in the same respect this is to be a competitive group.

Behavior and Attitude:

The guard members are all expected to adhere to the policies and rules of the Cypress Ridge Band Handbook and the Cypress Ridge High School Handbook. Any student that does not comply with the policies may have disciplinary consequences as deemed fit by a Director and/or may be dismissed from the group.

Rehearsals and Competitions:

You are making a commitment to be part of the team. It is required that you are at all rehearsals and all contests. See the enclosed calendar for dates and times (note: dates & times are subject to change, based on need). Note that unexcused absences are not allowed. This includes poor time management needed for homework, birthday, family celebrations, etc. Three (3) unexcused absences will equal with an alternate position. Punctuality is required as well; students are required to be at rehearsal 15 minutes prior to its start. If there is a situation, the student must contact the director immediately. During summer/fall rehearsals, you must **ALWAYS** bring with you the following items:

- All equipment {flags, rifles, sabres, etc.)
- Dot book along with any coordinate sheets
- Water jug (and snacks if needed)
- Tennis shoes (No flip flops!)
- Sunblock! THIS IS A MUST
- Personal headgear (hats, sunglasses, etc.)
- Other items as instructed through the year

You can only wear these items if they do not interfere with your equipment during choreography. Failure to be fully prepared for rehearsal will result in additional "spin clubs" to be finished AFTER planned rehearsal. There is not a strict dress code during rehearsals, but it is recommended that you wear light colored clothing that is semi-tight so that we can see your body movements while rehearsing. Never, at any point, are you allowed to wear jeans or khakis. No jewelry is allowed during rehearsals or performances.

Outside Rehearsals:

The only way for a member to grow in this activity is through individual practice. **A MEMBER MUST PRACTICE OUTSIDE OF ORGANIZED REHEARSALS.** We strive for individual responsibility to help student learn several things: time management, responsibility, completion and achievement.

Alternate Status:

No one has a guaranteed spot. You must maintain your spot to continue to be in the show. There are several reasons you may be an alternate. If you are an alternate, this DOES NOT mean that you are not part of the group. You have all the same privileges as everyone else; you just do not have a spot on the field. It must be stressed that you can either make being an alternate as a negative or positive thing. Anyone at any point can be made an alternate. Alternates are very important to the band program. Many handle jobs like moving props on or around the field or setting up and running the sound system. Everyone learns to march positions on the field and an alternate may be called upon to take a primary marching position at any time. No one will be without a specific job for every marching performance. Alternates are expected to be at every rehearsal and band function - going from alternate to primary can happen at any moment of a rehearsal or of a performance.

Issues and Concerns:

If at any point, the member feels like they need to speak to an adult about ANY problem in the guard, the staff along with the band directors are here and ready to listen. We have an open door policy and all information is confidential. Issues will not be discussed with anyone else unless the member and staff agree that it is necessary. Any notifications that need to be made about a member, please let the Directors know about any emergencies as soon as possible. It is best to use email, but if necessary please call. It is not acceptable to contact a leader or fellow member about being absent. You must contact the director.

Cypress Ridge Color Guard Agreement

The success of this program will be built around numerous hours of rehearsal, performance, and sacrifice from the performers, parents, and staff. In order to continue to increase the standard of excellence in this program both you and your parents need to read and understand the following information. After reading the information, both student and parent signatures are required for membership. Your application implies that you both support and agree with these expectations and guidelines.

1. As a performer, understand that my academic achievement is most important. If my name appears on the UIL Ineligibility List, I realize that my performance position and membership is permanently in jeopardy. Students must plan ahead and use good time management to keep up with the busy fall schedule. Proper study habits are very important. However, **students will not be allowed to miss rehearsal due to poor time management, as this will jeopardize the success of the entire ensemble.** I will complete my weekly grade check in order to be aware of my grades at all times.
2. As a performer, understand it will take sacrifices in other areas of my life to be a part of this performing group. I will always be 15 minutes early to rehearsal. I understand that rehearsal times do not include clean up, and therefore, I will leave 20 minutes after rehearsal is over. **Three (3)** unexcused absences and/or excessive tardiness will result in a lower grade, alternate position, and/or dismissal from the group. All absences must be cleared 1 week in advanced. A previous history of unexcused absences could result in lack of membership.
3. As a performer, I realize that there are numerous hours of rehearsal needed before the finished product is complete and that it is mandatory that I attend class every day, all rehearsals and individual practice time. Only excused absences that would be considered are severe illness or a death in the immediate family, if an emergency such as this does occur, I will get in contact with the **director immediately.**
4. As a performer, I realize that it is mandatory to attend all performances, including football playoff games (when applicable). Any potential conflicts for rehearsal or performances should be noted in the "participation agreement" area on the contract. Specific guidelines for all band trips/functions will be discussed and/or distributed at a later date.
5. As a performer, I understand that there will be extra rehearsals and/or sectionals needed (in addition to the regular schedule). It is my responsibility to the group to attend these sectionals.
6. As a performer, I understand that I am responsible for the payment of the Guard fees, as well as other items that may be necessary. In addition, I understand that I am responsible for all additional trip expenses. The cost will be kept as minimal as possible.
7. The image of the Color Guard is very important. As a member/performer, I **understand that** I am **representing the group at all times, even when not with the group, and that I must maintain the highest level of professionalism. Unacceptable behavior, inappropriate attire, extreme hair color and non-conventional body piercings are not allowed.** All rules and expectations in the CRHS Handbook apply at all times.
8. I understand that there may be alternates in the Color Guard. At any time, an alternate may be placed into a performing position. Likewise, a performing member may lose their performance spot and become an alternate due to grades, eligibility, discipline, excessive absences, poor work ethic and attitude, and/or level of performance. In addition, I understand that not all performers will perform in every segment of the show.
9. Students will obey and show respect toward each other, officers, directors, instructional staff, chaperones, and faculty at all times.

VOLUNTEER

“We can’t be a whole picture without your support”

What is the Cypress Ridge Band Booster Club (CRBBC)?

The Cypress Ridge Band Booster Club is an organization comprised of parents/guardians of all Cypress Ridge Band and Color Guard members who have a vested interest in the success of the band programs at Cypress Ridge High School. These programs include Marching Band, Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, Color Guard and Winter Guard. The primary purpose of the Band Association is to assist the Director of Band in the development of excellence in music education, performance skills and leadership among the band students.

The Band Association accomplishes this by providing financial logistical, and moral support in a balanced fashioning for all programs and the students who participate in them. If you are interested in becoming a CRBBC Member or Committee Chairperson, speak with a current club member or a Band Director.

Parents are **highly** encouraged to attend the CRBBC meetings, volunteer, and be a part of their child's Band/Guard experience.

How can I support the Band/Guard? Volunteer opportunities?

You should be able to find a place to volunteer that fits your time, talents and interests! Parents are encouraged to come and cheer for the band each week! The students love to hear cheers and applause from Cypress Ridge supporters.

- Chaperone
- Game Day - Props, Pit Crew, Game Day Meals, Uniform committee - the list is long!
- Football programs sales
- Spirit sales
- Fundraising
- Donations

Chaperoning:

We will need at least **one** chaperone to ride the bus the Guard to each competition event. Chaperoning includes staying with the team after they arrive and until they depart the competition site. The chaperone will also assist the Guard with their parent provided snack and drinks at school only.

Snack/Drink Volunteers:

For each competition, guard parents volunteer to bring snacks and drinks. We need at least two snacks per member. This number differs every years. Good snacks to bring are anything individually wrapped. We like to stay away from candy or any carbohydrate based drinks. Some examples of good snacks are: individual packages of Chex mix, granola or fruit bars, water, Gatorade, Capri sun, etc.

*****PLEASE BE MINDFUL THAT THERE MAY BE MEMBERS ON THE
COLOR GUARD WITH FOOD ALLERGIES*****



Frequently asked questions

How does my student balance marching band/guard and other activities?

There is no denying marching band and guard requires a large commitment of time and energy. Rehearsals are after school for an hour and half to two hours long, 3 to 5 days a week, depending on the football schedule. The band directors have absolutely no say in when or where varsity football games are scheduled, but the band required to attend all regular season games not matter the day, time or location. There are marching contest in addition to football games. With careful planning and efficient use of time, students can manage marching band plus homework and all of their other activities. As a matter of fact. Most of these students do not go into music as their college major, but they find their four years in band/guard gives them an edge in getting accepted to the college and field of their choice.

What should I expect during the Football games?

Games are played on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Regular season football games are scheduled from the end of August though early November. The students will have a call time to meet for rehearsal. The meeting time is usually soon after school ends. Students need to have a meal before the call time for inspection (see Game Day Meals & Inspection). After the trucks are loaded, students will ride school buses to all game, including home games. The band usually arrives at the scheduled stadium and hour before the kick-off time; however, the band directors will set the exact time each week. After performances, the Guard will change into approved guard wear while at the football games/competition {ex: Guard shirt, jacket, flip flops, etc. - Guard leaders will provide the required attire prior to the event). Generally after the half time show, the guard will return to load equipment and then to change out of uniform, to then return stands during 4th quarter. On any bus (home or away) the Guard must be dressed in their travel clothes **PRIOR** to departure, unless previously instructed. They can do their make-up and hair on the bus (must be show ready upon arrival at the stadium). **NO** fingernail polish allowed. They must be completely ready once they arrive at the game, except for putting on their uniform and jazz shoes. The end of the football game does not mean the band is released. After the game is over, the band will play the school song for the team and spectators before exiting the stands students will board the buses for the return to Cypress Ridge, after the instruments are loaded on the trucks. The band travels with at least 5 school buses and 2-3 trucks. When the band arrives at CR, the students help unload the trucks, have a brief meeting in the band hall. They must put their belongings away (or take them home) and correctly hang up their uniform on the right hanger and return their uniform to be stored for the week. This can take up to **30** minutes after arrival but they should be finished very close to the designated pick up time for the week. If the football game is long or goes into overtime, the student will be asked to call home to let you know the pickup time will be later. Students and parents should talk about arrangements for pickup **BEFORE** the game, not when the students are finished. The established pickup time will be communicated at the beginning of each week and is generally pretty accurate, so that parents should not have to wait long. You have to understand the pickup time is not usually earlier than the time sent out and not right after the game ends or as soon as the band gets to CR. For the safety of all the people involved with the band, it is requested that you **DO NOT** pull up into the bus lot/marching field to wait for your student. Please park in the auditorium parking lot (in front of the auditorium).

What is inspection?

Inspection is when your student's bag and interment will be reviewed to ensure they have everything they need to perform at the designated venue. This happens the day before a game or competition and the day of a game or competition before loading the bus to leave. Inspection list will be provided the week of the game. Inspections are conducted by the Guard Leaders.

What are "Game Day Meals"?

As mentioned, there is not much time between the end of the school and the time the band members are to report back to school for inspection on the afternoons of football games. The band boosters offer the service of serving dinner so the kids can eat at school and not try to rush back and forth to home or to a restaurant.

Are refreshments provided during the football games?

They are required to have their water jug with them. **Absolutely NO** food, candy, gum, beverages other than water while in stands. Please do not give any food or drink to a band/color guard student at a game, but do make sure they had a meal **BEFORE** inspection.

What do I do if I have a conflict with a game, contest, or concert?

Follow the attendance guidelines in the Band Handbook. Email a Director as soon as you become aware of potential conflicts. Be sure you read about excused and unexcused absences and understand the consequences of an unexcused absence. With advance notice to a Director, students who have the SAT or ACT scheduled for a Saturday after a Friday game may be released from the game early.

What are marching contests?

Besides football games, the fall season is about the marching competitions for the CR Band. The competitions are generally held Saturdays. Most of the competitions are in the Houston area. The students will meet at the band hall at an instructed time. They will rehearse and then load buses to travel to the competition site. After the competition, awards are announced and the band will load and return to CRHS band hall. We hope you will attend the contests. If you are not able to attend, students will call home when the band is leaving the competition site, specified pickup times will be fairly accurate.

What is Winter Guard?

Winter Guard refers to the indoor competition season for the Color Guard that follows marching season. Their shows use recorded music and are designed to be performed in gyms. Winter Guard competitions run from January through April.

What should I expect during winter guard season?

Rehearsals will mainly be in the commons, occasionally in a gym. They will be after school for 3 hours, 3 days a week. Same thing applies for winter guard, rehearsal ends at a certain time, then we have to clean up and put things away; this process roughly takes about 20 minutes. Please plan accordingly. All contest are on Saturdays and it will be all day event. Contest is another great opportunity to have parent volunteers.

What should I expect on the day of a Winter Guard Contest?

Winter Guard contest are usually on Saturdays and are held at high schools in the Houston area. The students will have a call time to meet for rehearsal before leaving for the contest. Students need to have a meal before the call time and for after and/or money to purchase food at the contest. We will have inspection before leaving Cypress Ridge. Students will ride the bus to all contest. On bus, the Guard must be dressed in their body-tight and travel clothes PRIOR to departure, unless previously instructed. They can finish with hair and make-up on the bus (must be show ready upon arrival at the contest). After performances, the Guard will change into approved guard wear while at winter guard contest. The students will have the opportunity to watch other high school groups perform. At the end of the contest, there will be an award ceremony where they announce scores. When the award ceremony is over, we will load the buses and head back to the school. Upon arrival to the school, students will help unload the truck and bus. After everything is put away, then they will be dismissed.

What happens after Winter Guard?

After the winter season is over, we will take about a 2 week break, then get back to training for the next year. Upon that, we will start recruitment and head into auditions for the upcoming fall season. The students will have an opportunity to interview to become a leader for the next year.

How does my student tryout for a leadership role with the band?

All students interested in holding a leadership position must participate in the leadership interviews each spring. Required meetings and information packets will help each student prepare for the audition with detailed instructions, required paperwork and practice.

How can my student receive a letter jacket in Color Guard?

The student needs to complete 2 years of Color Guard (4 consecutive season - fall and winter). They must also be up to date on all fees or payment schedules as well as have never been on the ineligible list.

CYPRESS RIDGE COLOR GUARD HANDBOOK ACCEPTANCE FORM

I, as a parent/guardian of a Color Guard Member, have received a copy of the 2024-2025 Color Guard Handbook, including the Cypress Ridge Color Guard Agreement. I have read each portion of the handbook and agree to follow procedures as listed. I also understand the expectations, time commitment, and responsibility of my daughter/son as listed in the handbook. I agree to fully support my student financially, emotionally, and physically throughout their effort to be a part of the Cypress Ridge High School Color Guard.

I, _____, parent/guardian of _____ have read the above statement in addition to the handbook and agree to guidelines and expectations as listed.

Student Name (Print)

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Email Address

Parent/Guardian Phone Number

PLEASE TURN IN FORMS NO LATER THAN Friday, May 24th 2024