

*Miamisburg Visual
Ensemble*



**Member & Parent
Handbook
2017-2018**

History

Miamisburg has a rich history in the color guard world. The guard was started in the early 80's when the band director asked Cathy Barnes to help. After only a few years in existence, the guard attended their first Winter Guard International Championships. Quickly making a name for themselves, the Miamisburg HS Winter Guard went on to be one of the top 3 high schools in the world 12 times (between 1985 and the present day). This includes winning the Scholastic World Class in 1991, 1992, & 1998.

To keep the guard strong, Cathy Barnes started both the Junior High and Elementary programs at Miamisburg. The younger programs have been flexible over the years, changing form depending on the need. There has been a Junior Guard, there have been multiple Elementary guards, and the Junior guard has transitioned in the A guard.

For the 2017-2018 winter season, there will be three performing color guards – the HS World guard, the A guard, and the Sweethearts Elementary Guard.

We join a long tradition of excellent guards at Miamisburg and it is our goal to keep the tradition alive.

Rehearsal Conduct and Etiquette

- It is imperative that members arrive to every rehearsal with enough time to help with pulling out the floor, moving tables (JCE), preparing themselves for rehearsal. Arriving 15 minutes prior to posted start time of rehearsal will allow for rehearsals to begin on time and for all the performers to be prepped and ready to have a great rehearsal.
- During rehearsal, members will act respectful to all staff members, as well as other members. This includes – eye contact with those who are speaking, no spinning while staff is giving information, limiting talking to other members, and using the golden rule.
- Proper attire must be worn at every rehearsal
 - **High School/World Guard**
 - Winter Attire – dance attire that is form fitting, black dance attire is required for Friday and Saturday rehearsals.
 - **Junior/A Guard**
 - Fall Attire - **athletic clothing that is appropriate for outside conditions (no jeans please), gym shoes, hair out of the face**
 - Winter Attire – athletic clothing (no jeans please), socks or bare feet, hair out of the face
 - **Elementary/Sweetheart**
 - Fall Attire – athletic clothing that is appropriate for outside conditions (no jeans please), gym shoes, hair out of the face
 - Winter Attire – athletic clothing (no jeans please), gym shoes or socks (no bare feet), hair out of the face

Parental Expectations – Etiquette, Fees, & Fundraising

- The directors and instructors expect the parents of our performers to behave like adults at all times. Everyone involved with the Miamisburg Color Guards is here to help our performers.
- We encourage parents to get involved with the booster organization, our guards would not exist without the help of our boosters.
- A fee payment schedule will be announced each season. Please plan to pay these fees on time. If you have an issue with the schedule, please contact the VP of your performer's group to discuss a payment plan.
- To keep member fees low, our Boosters conduct many fundraiser events. We ask that parents and members do their part in the fundraisers. The more funds that come from these events, the lower the fees will be. When a fundraiser is successful, everyone benefits.

Friendly Reminders

- Color guard is a sport that requires athleticism, dedication, sportsmanship, spirit, cooperation, trust, patience, friendship, and above all else, fun.
- If members become frustrated or unsure of themselves, just breathe. We won't get everything right the first time, or even the 10th time, but relax and be patient. Nothing worthwhile is easy to achieve.
- Everyone needs to be 100% dedicated to this team, or the show won't work the way it should.
- Always strive to do better than you did the rehearsal before.
- Believe in yourself!
- Laugh together, enjoy performances, and make long lasting memories.
- Work hard and enjoy the journey.

“No one said it would be easy, they just said it
would be worth it”

We the undersigned have received & read the Miamisburg Visual Ensemble
Member & Parent Handbook.

We understand what is expected of both members and parents, from both the
directors and the board.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Member Signature

Date

Other Resources

Winter Guard International – wgi.org

WGI Sport of the Arts is the world's premier organization producing indoor color guard, percussion, and winds competitions. As a non-profit youth organization, WGI also serves as the governing body for the indoor color guard, percussion, and winds activities. It is called the Sport of the Arts because it brings music to life through performance in a competitive format. Now entering its 41st year in 2018, the sport continues to evolve and grow. There were more than 36,000 participants at the regional level, and more than 13,000 participants at the Sport of the Arts World Championships this past April.

Mid-East Performance Association – mepa-circuit.org

MEPA is our local circuit for color guard, percussion, and wind activities. MEPA will host most of the events the guards attend. MEPA has members mainly in the central & southwestern parts of Ohio.

Social Media Policy

- All members and parents are expected to use social media outlets in positive ways when posting about any of the Miamisburg Guards, the directors/staffs, other members, and other parents. We do not want to tarnish the image of the Miamisburg Color Guards.
- Please do not post information about the show concept, uniforms, or music – until given permission by the director.
- Please do not use Social Media to post negative items about other groups, to complain about scores, or in other negative ways.
- Social media is a wonderful communication tool and a nice place to brag about your performer; let's please keep it a positive device.

Expectations in School

- All guard members are to attend school and maintain adequate grades.
- Excessive school absences may jeopardize involvement in guard.
- All HS and MMS guard members will have their grades checked by the Athletic department for eligibility.
- Excessive eligibility issues may jeopardize involvement in guard.

Performance/Contest Etiquette

- At contests we are all representing the Miamisburg Color Guard organization. Please act with class.
- Members should be on their best behavior while at a contest. Respect everyone at the show site.
- Members will leave any areas we use at a show site, better than we found it. This includes – waiting areas, restrooms, rehearsal areas, and warm up areas.
- Please watch your comments while at a contest. There are ears everywhere and every performer is someone's daughter, sibling, or friend.
- Be good audience members. Clap for and react positively to the performances you watch. Each performing group puts in a lot of hard work during the week – show them that you appreciate it.

Goals and Purposes

- Our goal is to create opportunities for our students to express individuality through themed performances.
- Our purpose is to show our students how to create a team, use teamwork, and build confidence and self-esteem through these performances.

Attendance

- Attendance is expected at every rehearsal and performance. Guard is a team sport and having members miss rehearsals will affect the entire ensemble.
- All absences must be approved by the director. If a member is ill, please notify the director as soon as possible (do not just tell another member).
- Doctor's notes may be requested by directors.
- Please plan any appointments around the rehearsal/performance schedule.
- Work is not an excuse to miss a rehearsal.
- It is the member's responsibility to make sure they are caught up on new material before the next rehearsal.
- Unexcused absences will jeopardize involvement within this activity.

Equipment

- When equipment is distributed, members are to maintain proper care of it. If issues arise with that equipment – please notify a staff member to get it repaired or to be shown how to repair it.
- Please label your equipment.
- All equipment will be turned in at the end of the season (unless you've provided your own weapon).

Contact Information

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Executive Board Members

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