



# Avon Grove Indoor Color Guard 2009



*Persistence is the twin sister of excellence. One is a matter of quality; the other, a matter of time.*  
~Marabel Morgan

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### **What is winter guard or indoor guard?**

Have you ever seen the flags, sabers, and rifles that march along with the marching band? Well, we take those flags and rifles and perform with them indoors, on a gym floor, to taped music. Here's some history: color guard originated from the military practice of guarding your nation's flag during a battle. Have you ever noticed that when the American flag is carried in a parade, there is always someone carrying a rifle or sabre next to it? That person is "guarding" our nation's colors—the color guard. Competitions were originally just displays of precision marching, but the sport has evolved into one of pageantry.

### **Why does Avon Grove sponsor an indoor guard?**

Our main goal is to further develop skills of the current members and train future members of the outdoor color guard program. A secondary goal is to allow color guard members to perform in another format; one that allows them to showcase their skills in a more intimate setting than the football field. As in our fall guard program, students will work to develop the cooperative skills and strong work ethic that goes along with being part of a team.

### **Who may join?**

Any current or future color guard members (9<sup>th</sup> –12<sup>th</sup> grade) that want to increase their skills and be given the opportunity to perform. The guard may include up to 30 members.

### **Will we have to audition?**

No. You do not have to audition to be part of the guard. If we have over 30 members, then some people will "share spots". We will audition for rifle and sabre spots in the show.

In place of auditions we will have a "commitment day". This is the date when we will finalize the roster so we can begin to design the show. This gives students a chance to attend a few rehearsals and see if this is an activity they want to join. It's very important that you complete the season if you make the commitment. Unlike sports, there is not another kid on a bench waiting to take your spot. The show is staged and your "spot" is integral to the overall show design. If someone quits mid-season the rest of the color guard has to RELEARN the show to "close the spot"

This year we are also requiring everyone to turn in a copy of their 1<sup>st</sup> report card. This is so that we can be sure your academics are strong enough for you to make this commitment. The staff reserves the right to recommend you do not participate due to low academic performance (failing classes, etc.)

### **How can our parents be involved?**

We will need help sewing flags, setting up at shows, painting the floor, building props, chaperoning, etc. More information on this will follow. Also, if your parent is not already a member of the Avon Grove Music Boosters, they should consider joining at the next meeting (Visit the AG Band website for more information: <http://www.ghsmusicboosters.org>) Most of all, we welcome parent supports as a "cheering section" when we perform. Parents are always welcome and encouraged to come at the end of rehearsals to see run-throughs. We are proud of what you accomplish and we know they will be too!

**When will we practice and go to shows?**

We will practice on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6pm-9pm beginning on December 2 . There will be four Saturday “camps” to learn the show. We will also have short rehearsals on show days (all shows will be on Saturdays). We will perform at local Indoor shows, Chapter 3 Championships, and All Chapter Championships (Wildwood). A tentative schedule is attached.

**What about snow? (and rain, sleet, hail, etc.)**

If the Avon Grove school district is closed (all day or an early dismissal) due to inclement weather on a weekday rehearsal (Tuesday or Thursday) then practice is automatically cancelled. If there is a 2-hour delay there WILL still be rehearsal. If Saturday plans change we will contact you by email and posting on our website.

**What is the Attendance Policy?**

All members are expected to attend rehearsals and performances. Attendance is extremely important, and mandatory for participation in this activity. All equipment skills, movement skills, routines, and drill can only be learned through active participation. Consider this if you think that other activities or work will interfere.

Any conflicts must be discussed with the staff at the beginning of the season. Any emergencies (illness, family emergencies, etc.) are excusable absences IF you contact a staff member. Work, social events, etc. are not excused absences.

Though academics is your main focus at all times, part of being a successful student is time management. You need to plan out your homework/study times around scheduled rehearsals.

Please remember it is YOUR responsibility to let a STAFF member know if you will be missing rehearsal AND to make up any work you missed. You must call or email Michelle Adcock (610-420-9171, [chellesilk@mac.com](mailto:chellesilk@mac.com) or [madcock@avongrove.org](mailto:madcock@avongrove.org) ). TELLING another member to tell me you won't be there is not acceptable.

Repeated and/or unexcused absences jeopardize your ability to be a successful performer. The staff reserves the right to pull you from performance if absenteeism becomes a problem.

**Can I Be Involved in Other Activities During the Indoor Guard Season?**

If you are involved in other school activities we will work with you to try to make it possible to do both. This may involve some “splitting” of time with another activity. Before commitment day, we will talk with each of you about possible conflicting activities. Some we can work with, some we cannot; and you'll have to make a choice. While we don't want to exclude anyone, the group cannot be successful if members miss rehearsals and performances for other activities.

You MUST make us aware of all possible conflicts prior to the start of the season.



### What will we have to buy?

- Equipment Bag: You can buy one or make your own
- Shoes: A particular dance shoe will be selected for performance (based on the uniform). You will also need dance shoes for rehearsals- these may be ballet slippers or jazz shoes (any color or style).
- Gloves: Leather fingerless sport gloves, natural color.
- White electrical tape (for equipment repairs)
- Costumes: Since costumes are specific to the show concept and only used for one season, each member will pay for their own costume (which they will get to keep at the end of the season). This is similar to what dance companies do for their recital costumes. The costume may be ordered from a company, "street" clothes, or a combination of both. The total uniform cost will be under \$100.
- Show T-shirt: \$15 or less
- Hoodies/Sweatpants: \$18-\$22 each (optional for indoor but highly recommended)
- Wildwood Trip: \$250 est (we will try to get this as low as possible)



Students may use money in their band fundraising accounts to pay for any costs associated with the indoor guard program.

We will be doing an order for costumes, bags, shoes, and gloves at the beginning of the season.

### Are there fundraisers?

You may participate in all fundraisers sponsored by the Music Boosters. This not only helps to fund ALL the music programs here at Avon Grove (including the color guard), but it helps members offset the cost of shoes, gloves, other supplies, and the spring trip. The Music Association has been very supportive of the and it is imperative that we support their fundraising efforts. Our biggest fundraiser during Indoor Season will be our FIRST home show on February 28, 2009. More information on how you can help with this coming soon!

### Is there a dress code for rehearsals?

YES! You must wear the following for rehearsals:

- Shorts or close-fitting leggings/capris (so that we can see your "leg line" during practice.)
- Dance shoes (ballet or jazz shoes.)
- Sports bras for those who require them
- NO JEANS
- Some rehearsals will be in "blacks". For these rehearsals you must wear all black (shorts, sweats, etc.). This is to help us better read the staging and forms.

### If my friend missed the meeting, is it too late to join?

NO! Take a packet for them and bring them to the first full rehearsal.

### I still have questions, what should I do?

Contact Michelle Adcock (610) 420-9171 or [chellesilk@mac.com](mailto:chellesilk@mac.com), [madcock@avongrove.org](mailto:madcock@avongrove.org).

During the Season, Indoor Guard Announcements will be available on the Avon Grove Band Website:

<http://www.aghsmusicboosters.org/>  
(click on the Indoor Color Guard link)