

*Amherst Marching Comets  
Color Guard Audition Packet*



*Don't worry...NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY! We provide the equipment and the training during auditions!*

The Amherst Marching Comets (AMC) Color Guard is an auxiliary section within the Marching Comets. Color Guard requires after school rehearsals and performances with the AMC with section rehearsals to follow two days a week. The commitment with this program is for one full year. To be a member of this nationally recognized team requires a strong commitment and dedication to the program and its reputation.

Color Guard involves a significant amount of commitment, dedication, and responsibility. We do have fun and love to perform, but in order to be the best, we must have ample time to rehearse. This activity requires parent involvement as well as student involvement. Parents wishing to help out at band functions are invited to do so! All information concerning dividends will be provided at the beginning of the next school year. We invite all of you to come out and help support this award winning program!

**This is a full year program!**

- *First semester*
  - The Color Guard performs at pep rallies, parades, football games, and contest with the Amherst Marching Comets.
- *Second semester*
  - The Color Guard performs in parades, and every 2 years travels to Florida to perform with the AMC in Disney.

**Financial Commitments:**

- Pay-to-Participate
  - **\$400.00** (full amount due on or before the first practice in August). Each performing member within the AMC is required to pay their PTP Fee. If a member is dismissed or quits the team, they are still responsible for this fee.
- Additional Fees
  - **\$150.00 est.** This will include shoes, a bag, warm up jacket, tee, and sweatshirt. The cost for a first year member is a little higher than a veteran member, but we will try to keep the same items for multiple seasons.
- Band Camp
  - **\$110.00 est.**
- Disney Trip (Every 2 years)
  - **\$795.00 est.** This amount is for all members and is subject to change depending on that year's fees.

**Frequently Asked Questions:**

*"WHERE DO I REHEARSE/AUDITION?"*

Rehearsals & Auditions will be held in the band room and gym of Marion L. Steele High School.

*"WHEN DO I AUDITION?"*

Audition rehearsals will be held April 25th-27th from 3:30-6:00PM. Rehearsals are not mandatory, but highly encouraged as you must know the routines to audition.

Auditions will be held April 28th starting at 5PM and will end once the last student has auditioned. All potential Color Guard members must audition on the designated date.

*"WILL I NEED TO PROVIDE MY OWN EQUIPMENT?"*

We will provide all extra equipment. No need to bring your own flag.

*"HOW DO I MAKE IT?"*

Auditions are based on teacher evaluations, learning potential, attitude, showmanship, effort, and attendance. At the conclusion of auditions, there will be a tabulation period and results will be posted the following day after school on the band room door and on Twitter and Facebook (we will only use audition numbers).



*“WHAT DO I WEAR EACH DAY TO AUDITION REHEARSALS?”*

Each day you should wear comfortable clothing, socks, and tennis shoes. Jeans, skirts, and sandals are not allowed at any time. Please leave all jewelry at home. Hair should be pulled back off the face.

*“WHAT DO I BRING THE FIRST DAY OF AUDITION CLINICS?”*

- A copy of your Powerschool grades
- Signed parent permission form
- Signed Handbook form
- Color Guard questionnaire (completed on Google Forms)
- The Teacher Recommendation form must be turned into Ms. Kocheff on or before April 25th in order to be eligible for auditions.
- Social Media Agreement
  - We all know social media has been an issue for a few years now. Please note that inappropriate photos or activity on social media will not be tolerated. Color Guard members are representatives of the school at all times, and as such should be setting a good example both during and after school hours.

*“WHAT DO I WEAR FOR FINAL AUDITIONS?”*

- Hair must be pulled back from your face in a neat full ponytail, bun, or french braid.
- Wear a plain black top and bottoms. Leotards are acceptable. Nothing low cut or showing the midriff.
- No jewelry is to be worn.
- Make sure nailpolish is a neutral color.

*“CAN FAMILY OR FRIENDS COME TO AUDITIONS?”*

The audition area is only open to prospective Color Guard members. NO relatives or friends.

*“WILL I BE ABLE TO SEE MY SCORES AFTER I AUDITION?”*

Scores WILL NOT be given out, but an appointment can be made with Ms. Kocheff to review the areas needed for growth the following week.

*“WHAT HAPPENS IF I MAKE A MISTAKE DURING AUDITIONS?”*

You may repeat if you make a mistake. (1 Time Only)

**YOU MUST HAVE ALL ITEMS LISTED ABOVE ON THE FIRST DAY IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE!**

If you have any further questions, please contact the AMC Color Guard Advisor, Ms. Allison Kocheff, at [allison\\_kocheff@amherstk12.org](mailto:allison_kocheff@amherstk12.org).

For further information, complete schedules, & current updates, please visit our website at <http://marchingcomets.com/ColorGuard/tabid/5164/Default.aspx>.



**Sample of Audition Score Sheet:**

Category	Notes	Max. Points	Points	Comments
<b>Appearance:</b>				
<i>Clean and neat</i>		4		
<i>Facials</i>		4		
<i>Crowd Appeal</i>		4		
<i>Posture</i>		4		
<b>Flexibility:</b>				
<i>Right Split</i>		10		
<i>Left Split</i>		10		
<i>Center Split</i>		4		
<b>Marching:</b>				
<i>Precision</i>		4		
<i>Poise</i>		4		
<i>Marking Time</i>		4		
<i>Roll Step</i>		4		
<b>Fight Song:</b>				
<i>Showmanship</i>	Performs with confidence, generates audience appeal and excitement	6		
<i>Memory</i>		10		

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<i>Execution</i>	Good control of equipment, good mechanical skills, good body control	<b>20</b>		
<i>Style</i>	Good understanding of phrasing moves with music, good use of bodywork with flag, performs with energy	<b>10</b>		
<i>Poise</i>		<b>4</b>		
<b>Routine:</b>				
<i>Showmanship</i>	Performs with confidence, generates audience appeal and excitement	<b>6</b>		
<i>Memory</i>		<b>10</b>		
<i>Execution</i>	Good control of equipment, good mechanical skills, good body control	<b>20</b>		
<i>Style</i>	Good understanding of phrasing moves with music, good use of bodywork with flag, performs with energy	<b>10</b>		
<i>Poise</i>		<b>4</b>		
<i>Dance/ Movement</i>		<b>10</b>		
<i>Generates Audience Appeal</i>		<b>4</b>		
<b>Overall Performance</b>		<b>20</b>		
<b>Total</b>		<b>190</b>		



**Teacher Evaluation Form**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Subject: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Color Guard takes a lot of time and energy. When answering the following questions, please consider whether or not this student will be able to handle a co-curricular activity of this sort.

Please return this form to Ms. Allison Kocheff's mailbox at Marion L. Steele High School or send it through interoffice mail.

*Forms must be received on, or before April 25th.*

**Thank you for your time!**

SCALE 1 (LOW)-5(HIGH)

This student:

Comments:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Cooperates well with peers
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Has a good attitude towards school
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Has a GREAT attendance record
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Is prompt to class with assignments
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Takes criticism well
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Is mature, responsible, and dependable
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Works well as a member of a group
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Is respectful of other students
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Shows respect for authority
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Makes good decisions
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Has good self-discipline and does not give up easily
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Is a positive role model for peers
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Total/ 60**