

**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 two (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 rehearsal in August. Payment plans may be set up.) 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.
 - ***Please note that ALL outstanding PTP fees MUST be paid before auditions. If the student has an outstanding PTP balance they will not be able to take part in auditions for the coming year.***
- Additional Fees
 - **\$220.00 est.** This will include shoes, a bag, warm up jacket, hairpiece, sleeves, gloves, and a rifle. 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
 - **\$820.00 est.** This amount is for all members and is subject to change depending on that year's fees. This fee will be spread out throughout the year leading up to the trip.

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 9th, 11th, & 13th from 3:00-6:00 PM. Rehearsals are not mandatory, but highly encouraged as you must know the routines to audition.

Auditions will be held April 14th starting at 9 AM and will end once the last student has auditioned. All potential Color Guard members must audition on the designated date. If there are any issues please discuss them with Ms. Kocheff immediately.

"WILL I NEED TO PROVIDE MY OWN EQUIPMENT?"

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

"WHAT IF I HAVE NO COLOR GUARD OR DANCE EXPERIENCE?"

We will teach all the basics during clinics. I am looking for the ability to learn, not perfection. We will train and teach further during summer practices.

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“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 that day 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 (dance shoes if you have them). 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
- Color Guard Parent/Color Guard Release Form
- 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.
- The Teacher Recommendation form must be turned into Ms. Kocheff on or before April 14th in order to be eligible for auditions.
- Color Guard questionnaire (completed on Google Forms)

“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 nail polish 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.

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
Appearance:				
<i>Clean and neat</i>		4		
<i>Facials</i>		4		
<i>Crowd Appeal</i>		4		
<i>Posture</i>		4		
Flexibility:				
<i>Right Split</i>		10		
<i>Left Split</i>		10		
<i>Center Split</i>		4		
Dance:				
<i>Chasse</i>		4		
<i>Saute</i>		4		
<i>Chaines</i>		4		
<i>Single Pirouette</i>		4		
Fight Song:				
<i>Showmanship</i>	Performs with confidence, generates audience appeal and excitement	6		
<i>Memory</i>		10		
<i>Execution</i>	Good control of equipment, good	20		

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

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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 9th.

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**