

Lake Norman Winterguard

To Parents and Students,

You are receiving this packet because of an interest in the Winterguard program of Lake Norman High School. In this packet, we will give a complete overview and try to answer any questions you may have. This opportunity isn't for the weak, so we want to make sure anyone interested gets as much information as possible before the activity begins.

In this activity, no experience is required because we have a group for every skill level. All students are able to audition for these programs. Our primary focus with the Winterguard ensemble is to give the student a positive activity that teaches discipline, drive, work ethic, social skills, and develop an understanding of talents that the student may never have known they had. This activity also gives them a home within the school, where they feel safe and can be themselves.

Winterguard will require a large commitment from both parents and students. From being early to rehearsal, to correct rehearsal attire, to being at all contests for the rest of their teammates is all part of this commitment. Commitment is what we always discuss inside school, but the image our members portray is extremely important to the staff. We are around these students a lot through the season so we become extremely protective of them, and want the best for them. The friends they hang out with, grades, and choices they make in everyday life mold who they become as a person. We place a great deal of importance on this activity, because it changes student's lives for the better, but many parents also worry about their student's grades. This being said, we will be checking in with our students periodically to make sure they are keeping their grades at an acceptable level. We take pride in the students and want them to also take pride in their school work.

The time before practice begins is the student's time. They can snack, relax, work on homework, socialize with friends, practice, etc. They are not allowed to roam the halls of the school or be outside of the school building unless with a parent or guardian. We treat them as mature young adults, and expect them to uphold these expectations. Myself and the rest of the staff have expectations that we push the students to achieve. We encourage the students in a variety of ways for them to unlock talents that may be hidden. This activity results in better social skills, better work ethic, confidence, structure, and discipline. It is important to understand all the expectations this activity demands. In the rest of the packet we will go more in depth of our rules and procedures along with a tentative schedule. The back two pages of the packet is a letter to the parents explaining our expectations for you. The back page needs to be completed, signed, and returned before the student is allowed to audition.

Thank you for your interest in this activity!

Rules, Expectations, and Procedures:

The nature of this activity calls for high standards. Students who enter the program will strive hard to obtain the goals that they set for the season. The following is a guideline so that we can achieve our goals in the best way possible.

1. **HAVE FUN!** This activity is a roller coaster of emotions, but in the end, make sure that you are having fun.
2. **Your Safety.** Please always let staff members know of any injuries or ailments you may be experiencing.
3. **Push yourself**, settle for nothing less than 200%. “Nothing Great ever came from Comfort Zones”
4. **Respect all students and Staff members.** The staff working with the students are highly trained in this activity and will push the students to bring out full potential. Sometimes students will be called out in a positive way, and you as parents will hear all about this. If you have any comments or concerns, please feel free to contact us. We as instructors are human as well, and sometimes when information gets to the parents, some details are left out. So feel free to contact us.
5. **Be early.** This will help you be ready to start on time.
6. **Be at rehearsal.** Rehearsals are important. If one person is absent it’s a struggle for everyone else. This activity is dependent on each other. Please understand that if a child misses a rehearsal the week of a contest, and hasn’t made up or learned the work in time, the student WILL NOT perform at that contest. We will be using a 3 absences chart for the season. Once a student hits 3 absences without proper documentation (doctor’s note or family emergency) the student may be dismissed from the team.
7. **Communicate!** We will always try to work with you if possible if we know about situations. Aggravation comes when a student, the day before an activity says, “I can’t come tomorrow because” We need advanced notice if at all possible. We will give you a rehearsal and contest schedule. If we need to make a change, we will give you as much advance notice as possible.
8. **ALL PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY!** This activity is an all inclusive program, which means that your student will never be sitting out. If they make the team then they are going to be a major part that the rest of the team relies on.
9. Lake Norman High School rules are in place.
10. **Drugs, Alcohol, Profanity, and Tobacco products of any form will result in immediate dismissal from the program.**
11. **Equipment care.** Students not taking care of equipment, losing equipment, or destroying equipment, will result in the student / parent replacing that equipment and dismissal from the team.
12. **HAVE FUN!!!!** These are in place so each student can get the most out of this activity. We are building strong teams that are ambassadors for our school and we want to make sure the face Lake Norman presents a class act.

Some questions asked by students / parents:

What is Winterguard? is an activity that combines Dance, Theatrics, and Equipment use to produce a competitive show that the student will perform multiple times through the season.. They are a highly competitive ensemble that never strives for a trophy, but the focus is on being the best performer possible.

Check out this link to see what Colorguard is:: [▶ What is...COLOR GUARD?](#)

How much does it cost?

The cost of this activity is currently being calculated for the guard. We understand that times are hard, therefore we give fundraisers that may be used by the student to pay every penny of the fee if needed. This fee includes their show fee, equipment rental, instruction, entrance fees to the contest, transportation, and secured spot in their show. There will be a few items that the members will need to purchase on their own that we will give links to in the member email, such as Guard Shoes, Guard Gloves, Equipment Bag, Electrical Tape, etc. The fee can be in payments or full sum. First \$50.00 payment will be due at the first rehearsal

How much time does it consume? This activity does demand a good bit of time, but the student will have a life outside of the activity. Tuesday and Thursday Rehearsals, Friday Night Football Games and Contests on some Saturday.

I have a middle school student, is there a way for them to get to the High School from the Middle School?

YES! We have many students that carpool with parents from each school to LNHS, however parents will need to set this up with students / parents of their choosing.

What if my student has no experience in these activities?

As a staff, our main goal is to teach students and give the utmost knowledge to the students. The audition week is designed for students to learn from the ground up. No worries!

My child can't do it, they don't have a ride or they have a job.

Many of our students face these issues. We have students that carpool with other parents to make sure that the activity is possible for the student. Jobs also work with school schedules, by law.

On contest days, how long is my child gone?

Most of the day, depending on the contest schedule from that school.

Is there an Audition Fee?

Yes, to audition there is a non refundable \$25.00 fee that has to be turned in with their contract below. This is to go ahead and start ordering their equipment.

Who are the instructors of this activity and who may possibly be helping my student?

The team that works with your students have been teaching multiple years and have some great background that will give the best to your students.

Mr. Chris Brown	Director of Bands	Chrisbrown@iss.k12.nc.us
Mr. Kyle Campbell	Director of Guard	Kyle.campbell2718@gmail.com
Mr. Eli Mathew	Instructor	

AS INSTRUCTORS, THIS IS WHAT WE PROMISE YOU:

We will respect your child and always have their health and personal life in mind. We will push your students to be better performers and overall great people. Our focus is making sure that they are safe and respectful to everyone, inside and outside of the ensemble. If you need us, please contact us. We ask for your understanding and respect .

Parent Meeting Wednesday November

Dear Parents,

We appreciate your consideration of this activity for your student.

This is a positive activity that will give your student something to take pride in. We believe that students grow as individuals from this program and we recommend that you try it.

Please understand the commitment of this activity and don't use taking your child out of practice as a punishment. If your child is selected for this activity, we ask that your student honors their commitment through the entire season, because someone else had to be cut from the team for your student to make it. This will be an activity they love, but some days will be hard for them. As long as they try, they will be a vital part of the team. We encourage communication! If you have any questions or concerns please contact the staff. We are here for you and your students. We also want YOU involved! We need parent support through this entire season. Signing this contract allows our staff to know that you understand the packet and commitment to the program.

Detach: -----

Guardian Name: _____ Student Name: _____

Parents, If you can help in of the following ways, please check the space next to it:

- Crew Members:** Helps with travel and Contest days. _____
- Uniforms / Flags:** Sews, alters, and/ or fits flags and uniforms. _____
- Hauling:** Drives Penske or Pulls the Lake Norman Equipment Trailer. _____
- Media:** Pictures and Video. _____
- Food:** Preparation for food on contest / camp days. _____
- Chaperone:** Bus Chaperones / Trip Chaperones. _____

I understand the commitments and procedures of this activity. I will allow my student to audition and we will honor the commitment to this activity if placed on the team.

Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Guardian Cell: _____ Guardian Email: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Email: _____ Audition Fee Paid: _____