



# Sarcxie Colorguard



## Handbook

Welcome to the Sarcxie Marching Bears Colorguard! This handbook includes all the information you need to be a member of Sarcxie's largest and most well-known instrumental ensemble. As a member of the Colorguard you are a part of the visual aspect of the marching band, and are considered a member of the marching band. Here you will find important information about the marching program as well as its requirements and rules. At the end of the document there is also a tentative schedule for the marching season as well as a contract stating both the student and parent comprehension of this handbook.

### Staff

**Christian Woods**  
Band Director

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**Jessica Woods**  
Color Guard Instructor  
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**About our staff:** Mr. and Mrs. Woods both graduated from Blue Springs South High School and the University of Central Missouri where they were very active in the band programs. Mr. Woods holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Education and will be beginning his second year of teaching at Sarcxie in the fall. Mrs. Woods has performed with high school and collegiate fall and winter guards for the last 8 years. She is going into her second year of coaching High School Color Guard programs.

### Mission Statement

The Sarcxie colorguard ensemble exists to help students grow as performers and as individuals. Being a member of the colorguard requires a great deal of responsibility, patience, hard work, time, and perseverance. This activity teaches leadership, responsibility, loyalty, teamwork, and builds self-esteem through competition and education. We believe that learning and improving these skills and traits will benefit you in all else you choose to do later in life.

## **What is Marching Band?**

The Marching Band is often the largest, most well-known, and most visual ensemble of all the instrumental ensembles at the high school and collegiate levels. Marching band has deep military roots and today serves most often as a form of entertainment.

Our band at Sarcoxie performs and competes at parade and field show festivals and will also perform at all home football games. This ensemble is made up of all of the band students in the high school band (grades 8-12) and is required for that group of students. There are, however students who participate in our ensemble who don't play instruments: the color guard. The guard is open to students who audition and want to perform visual arts with the band in both the parades and the field shows.

The marching band is an ensemble where every member is vitally important both visually and musically. As a member of the Marching Bears, one can expect to practice one week during the summer, evening rehearsals throughout the season, and during band class each day once school begins. ALL PRACTICES ARE MANDATORY, unless otherwise excused by Mr. Woods! Information regarding the schedule and absences is listed later in the handbook.

Through the learning of the field show and the practicing of parade techniques, the students will learn advanced teamwork and goal setting, using both music and physical choreography. The students will also develop musical techniques specific to their instruments and continue to develop skills such as dynamics, blending, and intonation. The band is an important and visual member of the school community and will often play for school and community events as asked.

## **Attendance Policy**

As stated previously, it is vitally important that each member of the marching band is present each time the ensemble meets. It is for this reason that all rehearsals and performances are required. Absences may be excused but that is at the discretion of the director. I have provided a calendar of our events for the season, if there are any events you cannot attend, notify me as soon as possible so we can discuss the issue and make accommodations. If an absence is not excused in advance it will result in your grade being lowered if you are in band class, or a participation point reduction. If a member is late to three rehearsals or misses a performance, then the member will be put on a probation. This means the member may be required to sit out of part or all of the next performance.

## **What is Band Camp?**

Unlike band, most members in colorguard do not have years of experience. Therefore it is necessary that we have a colorguard camp. This is a time for the guard to connect with one another and immerse themselves in a learning environment. We will focus heavily on equipment and movement technique.

## **What is Band Camp?**

Band camp is a required activity in which band members learn, review, and refine their movement and technique skills. In a sense, band camp is much like pre-season conditioning or training is for athletic groups. It is held at the school each day from 8am to 4pm Monday through Friday and then includes a Saturday morning rehearsal. During this week we split our eight hour rehearsal days into three sections: morning marching rehearsal outdoors, lunch, and afternoon choreography rehearsal indoors. It is vitally important that all members are present for the entire week in order to receive the same instruction and begin working on our field show. If members are not present they are not given a spot in the field show.

## **Evening Rehearsals**

Even with band camp and 1<sup>st</sup> hour band class it is still necessary to have extra rehearsal time throughout the marching band season. That extra time is found in our evening rehearsals which will be on \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ nights beginning on August \_\_\_\_ and continuing until the end of marching season in late October.

The colorguard will also be expected to attend an additional one hour sectional a week, this is due to the fact that we are not able to have class time to work. This time will be determined based on everyone's schedules and will be set by the end of band camp.

## **Performance Expectations**

The Sarcoxie Marching Bears uniform and equipment is provided by the school, however there are a few items that each member is responsible for providing. These items are: black camisole, black cotton leggings, black jazz shoes, and makeup. Returning members may, of course, use some or all of these items from previous years, and new members will have to purchase these items. The cost of each item has been kept as low as possible, but if finances are a concern talk to Mrs. Woods and we can work out a solution. Appearance is a vital part of any organization, and our band is no exception. A group performance is meant to focus on a group; the goal of the uniforms is to make the band look like a group or ensemble and not allow any one individual to stand out.

We need to remember that when we are in uniform we represent our school and our band program. It is very important that we act professionally while in uniform and represent our school with pride.

Whether we are at a football game or competition we need to be careful what we say about people and other bands. I expect the Marching Bears to be supportive and encouraging to all. We are an ensemble that is about making music and performing our best and I don't want anything to overshadow that. If students are found not showing respect and encouragement to fellow band members and/or other bands, it will result in the lowering of grades and possibly expulsion from the group.

## **Marching Bears Tentative Calendar, Fall 2016**

These dates can also be found on the band website: [sarcoxiebands.weebly.com](http://sarcoxiebands.weebly.com)

June 16th	Colorguard Camp 6-9 pm
June 17 <sup>th</sup>	Colorguard Camp 8-4
August 1 <sup>st</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup>	Summer Band Camp (8-4 each day)
August 6 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday Morning Rehearsal (8-11:30)
August 19 <sup>th</sup>	Football vs. Jasper
September 9 <sup>th</sup>	Football vs. Liberal
September 10 <sup>th</sup>	Chief Sarcoxie Days Parade
September 16 <sup>th</sup>	Football vs. Southeast
September 24 <sup>th</sup>	Pride of Ozarks Marching Festival
September 30 <sup>th</sup>	Football vs. Lockwood
October 7 <sup>th</sup>	Football vs. Butler
October 15 <sup>th</sup>	Maple Leaf Parade and Marching Festival
October 31 <sup>st</sup>	Halloween Trunk or Treat Parade (Sarcoxie)
December ____	Christmas in the Park Parade (Sarcoxie)

## Acknowledgement and Contract

Please complete the following page, tear from packet,  
and return to Mr. Woods by 5/12/2016

### **Attendance:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby affirm that I have read and thoroughly understood the attendance policy of the Sarcoxie Marching Bears Program. By signing this contract, I further acknowledge my understanding of the consequences to which I will be subject should I violate the attendance policy including those pertaining to my grade.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### **Expectations of Members:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby affirm that I have read and thoroughly understood the expectations of being a member of the Sarcoxie Marching Bears both in regards to the mandatory supplies and behavioral expectations. I further acknowledge my understanding of the consequences to which I will be subject should I not be a respectful and positive member of the ensemble.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### **Parental Commitment:**

I have read the Sarcoxie Marching Bears Handbook and have discussed it with my child. I will do our best to encourage him/her to abide by the rules, regulations, and attendance policy of the band as expressed in the handbook. I also understand the costs that are expected with the High School Band.

Parent/Guardian's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_