

Coral Reef Senior High School Cuda Guard

HANDBOOK



2020-2021

Mr. Kennan Torgerson, Director of Bands, Guard Sponsor
Mr. Thomas Ennis, Principal
Ms. Martha Cabrera, Lead Teacher, Visual and Performing Arts

Dear Students & Parents,

The Coral Reef High School VPA Band Magnet & Cuda Guard is well known for its tradition of performance excellence and contributions to the community. I am confident that each member will contribute to that success.

The purpose of this manual is to provide students with a structural format of policies and responsibilities as members of the Coral Reef High School Cuda Guard. The policies are set up for the good of the students and to protect their best interests. These policies will help ensure that our time together will be efficient, productive, and educational. Students, as well as parents/families, should familiarize themselves with the regulations and procedures outlined in this handbook. The desired high standard of performance excellence can be achieved and, more importantly, maintained by adherence to these regulations.

It is hoped that some of the questions, always prevalent with a band program, will be answered in this handbook. If a question should arise which is not answered in this handbook, or via the program website, please contact me by e-mail, at ktorgerson@coralreefhigh.org or ktorgerson@dadeschools.net

Being involved in the Coral Reef High School Cuda Guard is a richly rewarding experience that will help build confidence and character. Our students learn valuable life lessons such as commitment, teamwork, time management skills, and personal responsibility while having a lot of fun! I am looking forward to working together to make this a year we can look back on with pride, dignity, and many fond memories.

Thank You,

Kennan D. Torgerson, Director of Bands

What is Cuda-Guard?

The Coral Reef Senior High School Barracuda Marching Band Cuda Guard is a color guard program that competes and performs for school and community events in conjuncture with the Band VPA program. Color Guard is an extra-curricular activity that normally takes place after school hours (a schedule of all rehearsals, practices and events is provided in advance). Cuda Guard participation includes the following:

- To learn how to spin and perform
- To strive for excellence
- To develop teamwork
- To learn sportsmanship
- To achieve the highest possible ranking in your competitive circle
- To interact with peers from other communities
- To entertain
- Multi-physical
- Mental
- Social
- Time Management
- Artistic Perception
- Creative Expression
- Aesthetic Valuing
- Team Work
- Group Cooperation

Attendance Requirements

- Attendance to all scheduled rehearsals is **MANDATORY**. As an ensemble/team it is absolutely necessary for our success that every member is at rehearsal. If a member is not there, we cannot rehearse properly. Failure to attend rehearsal will result in disciplinary actions unless approved by the Cuda Guard sponsor & coach.

- Members of the Cuda Guard are allowed **3 excused absences** throughout the season. Any absences surpassing this amount is considered unexcused regardless of the reasoning unless it is medical (**with doctor's note**) and or family emergency (**parent/guardian must call from number on file**). Anyone with absences surpassing this amount will be removed from performance events until the trend of commitment has steadied. Multiple absences surpassing this amount could result in a member being **DISMISSED** from the team.
- **Excused absences:** For an absence to be consider excused, the member missing **MUST** notify the sponsor & coach prior to missing (notification through another member is not acceptable). After being notified, the coach **MUST** approve the absence. (Unless of an emergency, then emergencies must be notified to the coach that same day.)
- Students must complete the Missed Rehearsal Google Form (website) 48 hours prior to the missed rehearsal

Parents are requested to schedule any non-emergency medical appointments, as well as vacations/events on days that don't conflict with scheduled rehearsals.

Excused reasons:

- Being absent from school
- Having a sickness or illness. Must have Doctor's note to be excused.
- Emergency doctor's/dentist appointments. Doctor's note required.
- Academic Magnet events/obligations. Notification from a magnet strand instructor to Mr. Torgerson (ktorgerson@coralreefhigh.org) must be provided at least 48 hours prior
- Family emergencies (parent notification required)

Unexcused absences: Absences **NOT** approved by the Cuda Guard sponsor & coach will result in **loss of performance opportunities (starting with Pep Rallys)**. Being absent from rehearsal without notifying coach prior or during rehearsal hours is automatically unexcused regardless of the excuse.

All absences require notification and documentation

Having an excused absence does not guarantee continued performance slot and participation....this is an effort, attitude and performance based activity....your product reflects upon the entire group!

Performances

Students are expected to attend EVERY performance. In the case of an **extreme emergency** (in which a reasonable effort of communication is still expected) contact must be made no later than 24 hours prior to or after any absence via email.

- Members who will not be performing due to being disciplined for their actions are still required to be at the performance he/she is not performing in, and in full uniform.
- Should a student miss a scheduled performance, they are at risk of being **dismissed** from the team.
- Performances include, but are not limited to: pep rallies, football games, band competitions & evaluations, parades, scheduled on campus performances and any other performances that have been put on the calendar.
- Attendance is taken at the end of every event as all students are expected to assist in the clean up!

Equipment/Facilities

Members of the Barracuda Cuda Guard will be granted necessary equipment for the season (poles and silks). All equipment given to members belongs to Coral Reef Senior High School and **MUST** be returned when necessary. The equipment given to members will have their own name/and or number to indicate who borrows it. Members must keep equipment well maintained and taken care of. An officer will be in charge of keeping track of equipment and will keep the coach notified of the status.

The Guard Room is a communal room with “cubbie” spaces and flag bag hooks that will be assigned. This room is frequently accessed by many and does not possess but one exterior door that locks. It is highly recommended that you do not keep valuables in that room. Coral Reef High School and the Band Program is not responsible for any lost or stolen items. ***This room is not to be entered by non-guard members for any reason, and this room is not to be used as a cafeteria under any circumstances!***

You are expected to keep this communal area neat, clean and respectable at all times!

Cuda-Guard Demerit system:

If a member who fails to follow/breaks a policy, he/she will receive one/multiple demerits for their actions. Demerits are a disciplinary warning that are kept on file under the member who is receiving the demerit(s) name. Members will have a limit up to 5 demerits before he/she is at risk of being dismissed from the team. The member will receive multiple warnings before this is acted upon. The following shows the number of demerits a member can receive before any disciplinary actions take place.

- **1 Demerit** – Member will be notified that they have received a demerit and be responsible for cleaning the guard room.
- **2 Demerits** – Member will be notified that they have received a 2nd demerit and to do 50 sit ups, 1-minute plank, and clean the guard room.
- **3 Demerits** – Member will not perform in the next performance but is still required to attend. Member will execute all 2 Demerit tasks.
- **4 Demerits** – Parent meeting with sponsor & coach about possible removal from the team. Member will execute all 3 Demerit tasks.
- **5 Demerits** – Member will be asked to return their equipment and will be dismissed from the team.

Demerits: *this is a list of demerits, it is not limited to this list so please read information in Band Handbook & MDCPS Code of Student Conduct for additional expectations. Additional demerits will be posted in Guard Room should they not be already provided*

- Use of phone during rehearsal or performance
- Is talking excessively while instructor is giving directions
- Is tardy to rehearsal without notifying instructor or is tardy more than 3 times.
- Does not bring their equipment to rehearsal
- Leaves rehearsal site without notifying instructor
- Takes excessively long breaks that surpass the amount instructor has given, without notifying.
- Misbehaves with other members
- Changes in guard room
- Forgets the proper performance/practice uniform
- Visual performance requirements are not meeting expectations

Rehearsal necessities:

Members will be asked to wear practice uniforms that will be determined for scheduled rehearsals. Due to weather conditions members will also be required to bring necessary clothing or protection essentials to every rehearsal. This is for the good of the member to ensure their comfort and protection from any harmful elements. Members can receive one demerit if they do not bring what is necessary to rehearsal.

Members are required to bring:

- Sunhats, caps, visors, etc.
- Sunscreen
- Bug spray
- Sunglasses
- Gym shoes
- Water bottle w/ water. (ABSOLUTELY necessary)
- Poncho
- Etc.

Practice Assignments

Members will occasionally be asked to film video assignments or practice for pass-off dates. Video assignments will be due a certain date after an exercise or routine has been taught. This ensures that all members are on the same page with performance expectations and display a good understanding of their show. Assessment of these routines will be pass - fail. The member will have multiple chances to ask questions or receive clarification on any routine they are confused about and will be able to repass-off on any routine they “failed.” A member who fails to participate in video assignments or pass-offs could receive **one demerit** for every time they fail to do so. The Band website and Google Classroom will be utilized to deliver this content and information. *These video submissions will only be viewed by sponsor and staff, they will not be made public!*

Conduct at rehearsals, performances, and football games

For conduct expectations please see “**Section 5**” of the VPA Band Handbook found under the “Student Recourses-Forms) section of www.cudabands.org

Communication

Information will be provided through various mediums.

***Band Website** - Calendars, itineraries, forms and links will be accessible via the website www.cudabands.org

***Remind** - All Cuda Guard members are to register for both the “Marching Band” & “Cuda Guard” remind groups. Parents are encouraged to join the booster remind group for information updates (BBPA).

***Google Classroom** - All Cuda Guard members are to register for the class to receive videos and links to assist in routine reinforcement. There will be separate classrooms for auditions and members (once selected).

Contact Information Form - All members are to complete the form with their contact information as well as their parent/guardian contact info. ***This must be completed prior to tryouts!***

Financial Commitment

As a member of this program you will have financial responsibilities in order to acquire the necessary equipment and attire for rehearsals and performances. In addition, the activity necessitates payment for transportation, instructional staff and equipment upkeep. Please see the Financial Responsibilities document which provides the details of the finances. If you become a member of the team a fitting process/procedure will take place prior to the end of the school year for future orders.

Forms to be returned:

- Handbook Agreement (Digital Link) *...completion required prior to tryout*
- Contact Information (Digital Link) *...completion required prior to tryout*
- Media Release Form (Hardcopy provided upon return to normal activities)
- Extra-Curricular Participation (Hardcopy provided upon return to normal activities)