

Mandeville High School Mainsails Handbook 2025-2026



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Introduction & Welcome

The Mandeville High School Mainsails Colorguard is a competitive team commitment that brings spirit and support to our school through the art of dance and spinning. We're a group that values creativity, leadership, and smart decision-making—on and off the field and floor. We are made up of individuals who want to grow as performers and as people while being part of something bigger than themselves.

Our goal is to create a positive and challenging environment where teamwork, strong work ethic, and personal growth are just as important as performance skills. As a competitive team, we push each other to be our best, represent Mandeville High with pride, and commit fully to a season built on integrity, humility, and heart.

The MHS Mainsails will operate on a positive merit system, where members can earn recognition and rewards for outstanding effort, leadership, and commitment. Each member will receive a merit chart to track their contributions throughout the season, which will count toward team awards and recognitions. Merits may be earned by volunteering for extra duties, supplying items that the team is needing, completing tasks all at the discretion of the coach.

Membership Requirements

The MHS Mainsails team is open to Mandeville High School students in grades 9–12. Membership is a yearlong commitment beginning April 28th, 2025, and continuing through Winterguard Championships in April 2026.

Selection is based on the following criteria:

- Dance ability
- Equipment technique
- Growth potential and attitude
- Teacher recommendations
- Minimum 2.0 GPA
- No outstanding fines at your current school
- **All members must audition each year—no spots are guaranteed.**

In addition:

- All team members are required to enroll in **Color Guard Class (Applied Music)**, which will be 1st block during the Fall Semester, and serves as our daily rehearsal time.
- See discipline policies below for information regarding non-compliance with any of the above stated membership requirements.

Attitude & Behavior:

Members should display appropriate behavior and a positive attitude at all times toward their coach/ choreographer, sponsor, officers, teammates, administrators, and all other school personnel.

Poor attitude, disrespect, or inappropriate behavior—whether verbal, nonverbal, or online—will not be tolerated. Depending on the severity of the behavior, and at the director's discretion, consequences may include a disciplinary meeting, probation, or dismissal from the team.

General Rules & Regulations

Being a part of the MHS Mainsails is a privilege and requires commitment, discipline, and respect. All members and their families are expected to uphold the highest standards of behavior both in and out of uniform, as their actions reflect on the entire team and Mandeville High School.

- The use of drugs, alcohol, vapes, or any illegal substances is strictly prohibited both in and out of school. Violations will result in disciplinary action, including possible dismissal from the team, at the discretion of the sponsor and directors.
- Team members and parents/guardians must conduct themselves appropriately and respectfully, especially while wearing team or band apparel.
- Be cooperative, polite, and respectful to teachers, school officials, coaches, parent volunteers, and teammates at all times.
- Good manners and a positive attitude are expected—give 100% effort every day.
- No eating or drinking in uniform (except clear liquids), unless wearing an appropriate cover-up.

- Members may not appear in uniform at private events or parties unless the team is officially performing. Uniforms are for current team members only and should only be worn at official events.
- Cell phones and electronics are not allowed at any team events, practices, fundraisers, or while in uniform. In case of an emergency, parents should contact a coach directly.

Team Responsibilities

Members must focus during all rehearsals and performances. While we want to make everything enjoyable for the students and have fun outside of these activities, professional attitude and behavior is expected in order to ensure success for the group.

In order to raise the performance quality of the team, members should be practicing daily on all equipment necessary to perform. Through consistent quality practice, members should aim to master at least one piece of equipment (flag, rifle, and saber) by the end of the season.

While cross-curricular participation is encouraged in order to make students well rounded, the commitment made to the team by accepting membership shall be held very highly. Students should avoid all conflict between the Mainsails team and other activities. If a student wishes to participate in another campus sport or performance group, the student must get permission from the Coach(es) and Directors. See “Attendance Policy” and “Team Commitment Policy” for more information on required events, practices, and performances.

Students are expected to participate in all fundraisers. This ensures that the team can participate at an advanced level in all of the activities that our organization is expected to. This team performs for large numbers of people across most of Louisiana and South Mississippi, which requires a large budget.

As a member of the Mainsails team, it is expected that members are **prepared and ready** for all practices and performances. The team does not benefit when required performance items are forgotten, broken, or neglected. This extends to personal health, students should always be ready to perform at their best health. Students should have water at every practice and performance (using the team bottle, see “Uniform Policy” for more info.) Students should also maintain a healthy eating schedule to prevent unnecessary injury or other safety concerns due to malnourishment.

Team Commitment Policy

Membership in the MHS Mainsails Colorguard is a full-year commitment that requires great amounts of time, skill, and determination. Therefore members of the team should be

prepared to prioritize the commitment that they have made to their teammates and coaches to guarantee success.

Members who depart or are removed from the team after May of 2025 may be ineligible to re-audition for the team for 1 or more years as determined by the Coach and Directors upon exit. And due to the budgeting that takes place for an entire school year of activities, students who leave the team after May 15th of 2025 are still required to pay all fees as outlined under "Fees & Fundraising" below.

Due to the commitment made to their teammates upon acceptance to the Mainsails team, current or former members of the team are ineligible to participate in any independent Winter Guard organizations. This policy is in order to protect team unity, training progress, and overall performance quality. By accepting membership on the MHS Mainsails colorguard team without communication with the Coach, Directors, and Principal, the student foregoes all ability to participate in any independent winter guard organization, and will not receive the required Director and Principal approval if the student quits the team mid-year. Auditioning and/or subsequent participation for any of these groups is considered a serious breach of commitment and will result in immediate dismissal from the Mainsails program and loss of eligibility for future seasons. Per LMCGPC and WGI rules, no student may perform at the same competition with 2 different organizations, and the school associated team shall always take priority. As stated above, membership on the MHS Mainsails team is a yearlong commitment, where your friends and teammates are counting on you in order to have a satisfying and effective season.

Attendance Policy

Being a member of the MHS Mainsails requires full commitment to all practices, classes, and performances. Consistent attendance and personal accountability are essential to the success of the team.

- The full calendar of events, including performances, practices, events, and competitions can be found on our website: <http://www.mandevillehighband.org/calendar>
- Attendance is mandatory at all scheduled practices, performances, and events. Members must arrive on time and in the required uniform.
- Fall full band practices: Mondays and Thursdays (Times vary based on outside temperature)
- Fall guard-only practices: Wednesday afternoons.
- Required performances: Friday night football games (home and away), Homecoming and Mardi Gras parades.

- Mandatory summer camps in June and July—missing camp may result in alternate status due to critical missed training and choreography.
- Winterguard season practices: Monday & Thursday evenings, and Friday afternoons. • Winterguard competitions: Usually on Saturdays (exact dates TBA).
- Additional rehearsals may be added by the Band Director or Guard Coach with ample notice.
- If a rehearsal is missed, the student is expected to learn all work missed. The student should expect to be able to perform this work for the coach(es) at the start of one of the next rehearsals. Failure to properly learn missed work is not only a lack of personal responsibility, it also holds back the rest of the team by limiting the overall performance quality.
- Excessive absences, whether excused or unexcused, may result in dismissal from the team. Lack of attendance also means lack of proper preparation to support the team.
- Extenuating circumstances will be reviewed by the Coach and Directors. Remember, communication is key!

Excused Absences

- Students and Parents should work to schedule doctor's appointments and personal errands outside of rehearsal time. All Practice and performance times and dates are put on the calendar months in advance so that you may plan ahead to avoid conflict. See "Attendance Policy" for the url to the calendar.
- The **only** excused absences are **pre-arranged** school conflicts, illness with a doctors or parents note, death in the family, or religious holiday. All other absences will be considered unexcused and will follow the discipline policy as stated under "Grades and Discipline" below.
- Birthday dinners, Work, etc. are not excused. Unexcused absences will follow the guidelines stated under "Grades and Discipline" below.
- All absences for practices and performances should be communicated **prior**. This is in place so that the staff can effectively plan instruction for practices or performance positions like alternates. Any school conflict not communicated **prior** to the absence will not be excused.
- If a student misses a rehearsal or performance, and the absence is excused, the student is still responsible for learning all missed work. After all, you may be excused from being

at a specific time and place for rehearsal, you are not excused from the work that the rest of your team members have put in during that time.

- At the discretion of the Coach or Directors, an alternative assignment may be assigned in the case of an excused absence. This assignment will be similar to the work that was missed, and should expect to take a similar amount of time to complete as to the event that was missed.

Uniform Policy

All MHS Mainsails Color Guard members must wear the correct uniforms and attire for practices, performances, and events. Uniformity, professionalism, and preparedness are essential for team success. Failure to comply may result in demerits or being unable to perform.

Pep Uniform Package:

- Guard backpack
- Team bow
- White pep shoes
- Pep uniform: shell top, skirt, long-sleeve liner, and bloomers

Fall Competition Uniform:

- Custom hand-made costume with accessories (ordered through custom vendor, sizes and design are specific to the student)
- Member Provides:
 - Black fishnet tights
 - Black jazz shoes
 - Skin-toned dance tights

Fall Miscellaneous Items:

- Embroidered raincoat
- Embroidered warm-up jacket and pants
- Team water bottle
- Team practice tank top

Winterguard uniforms:

- Depending on the show, the Fall uniform may be reused. (A winterguard fee will still be collected regardless of costume choice to help with mat, transportation, props, equipment, etc.)

Practice Uniform Guidelines:

- Team members must follow practice attire rules assigned by the coach for practice. Incorrect or incomplete practice attire will result in demerits and/or needing to sit out. Which prevents receiving full points for the day due to lack of preparation for practice.

These rules are for the safety of every team member and allow for the most efficient learning for the student, without hindrance of attire.

- Jewelry is not allowed at practice (stud earrings only if approved).
- Hair must be pulled back and off the face before practice begins.
- Proper footwear is required: jazz shoes or athletic sneakers only. Crocs, slides, sandals, or bare feet are not permitted. Members without proper footwear will be required to sit out due to safety concerns. Team members move a lot, so improper footwear **will** lead to unnecessary injury.

Mainsail Dress Uniforms and Return Policy:

- Uniforms are not to be worn outside of official performances, fundraisers, or scheduled guard events approved by the coach. This includes pep uniforms, dress uniform, competition costumes, and any team-issued accessories.
- If any additional uniforms or accessories are purchased by the school, members are responsible for returning the complete uniform and accessories in clean condition by the deadline provided.
- Failure to return items clean and complete within 1 week of the end of the season will result in:
 - Ineligibility to audition for the next season
 - A MHS owe slip issued for the full replacement cost of any missing or damaged items
 - This includes items such as the velvet dress uniform that is property of MHS.
- As stated above under “Team Commitment Policy” If a member quits or is removed from the team during the season, they are still financially responsible for all fees as stated under “Fees and Fundraising” Students who quit or are dismissed from the team are still required to return all school uniforms and equipment in their possession. Students who do not return these items within 1 week of departure from the team will be charged to their school accounts for the reasonable cost of each item not returned.

Equipment Use Policy

Students must have each of the following equipment for rehearsals and practice. Having personal equipment is preferred but the school has equipment available for checkout if required. Each member is responsible for their assigned school equipment, including any damage, loss, or theft. All equipment must be checked out and back in with Mr. Johnson at the end of the season in the same condition it was issued.

Members are expected to have all equipment properly taped and performance-ready before practice or performances. Taping or adjusting equipment during practice wastes student's time in effectively preparing for performance, and will not be tolerated. Failure to be prepared for rehearsal will result in demerits or loss of points as stated under “Grades and Discipline”

- Flags: The 2024–2025 season will use 6-foot flag poles and a set of Swing Flag poles. Students will be provided both a Practice Flag (6' silver pole with royal blue silk), a

performance regular flag (6' silver pole with show themed silk), and performance swing flag set (2 shorter poles with associated show silk)

- Rifles: Rifles must be 24" in length and with a black bolt. MHS Band supplies DSI or King brand rifles made of wood or plastic, which must be properly taped before use including strapping tape and electrical tape. Each student should have a rifle for practice, even though they might not be performing with them for competition.
- Sabres: Sabres must include a medal hilt and be at least 24" in length. All sabres must be properly taped with white electrical tape before use. Sabres are considered the most difficult of the guard equipment to master, only select students will use them for competition and are not required for everyday practice if you are not performing with them. As such, the school has a much more limited inventory of these items, so they will be reserved for performing students only.

Social Media Policy

Team members are expected to represent themselves, the MHS Mainsails, and Mandeville High School in a respectful and appropriate manner both in person and online.

- Any member who represents themselves or the team in an unfavorable, inappropriate, questionable, or illegal manner on social media platforms—including but not limited to Snapchat, Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, Facebook, Lapse, and BeReal—will face disciplinary action.
- If a post, photo, video, comment, or publication is found to violate team standards, consequences may include probation or dismissal from the team, depending on the severity and at the discretion of the Coach and Directors.

Important Reminder:

Anything posted online, even on private accounts, private stories, or disappearing messages is never truly private. Content can be screenshotted, saved, or shared without your consent and can be accessed by anyone at any time. What you post can follow you and reflect on the team, your school, and your future. These things will follow you for a lifetime.

Think before you post.

Fees & Fundraising

A team as active as ours requires funding to function. For a regular school year, the Mainsails team has expenses for many items like:

- Transportation
- Repair/Replacing broken equipment
- New Equipment
- Mats for Winter season
- Coaching Staff
- Competition Fees
- Silks for flags
- Props
- And much more.

Between Band Fundraisers and our Band Booster club, we are able to cover a large part of the cost of participation for students. However, there are costs for students to be able to participate. Because we have to budget for an entire year of activity, members must pay all team fees on time. If funds are not received on time, there will not be a budget for the activities that the team enjoys participating in. If a member is not up to date on fees, at the coach and directors discretion, the student may be ineligible to perform or participate in practice. Listed below is the breakdown of all fees for the 2025-2026 season, including what it pays for and when it is due by.

- Team Wear Package
 - Pay online by 5/15
 - Total **\$215.00**
 - Includes:
 - New Pep Uniform
 - Bloomers
 - Guard Backpack
 - Team Bow
 - White pep shoes
- Competition uniform
 - Due 7/11
 - **\$100**
 - Paid through MyPaymentsPlus.
- Booster fee
 - Due at Band-a-monium on July 9th. (Summer Parent meeting for the year)
 - **\$100**
 - Check made out to "MHS Band Boosters"
- Band Fee
 - Due 10/31
 - **\$300**
 - Covers all fall activity, football season costs and fall marching band competition season

- Paid through MyPaymentsPlus.
- Winter Guard Fee
 - Due 1/16
 - **\$300**
 - Covers all Winter Guard activity costs such as competition fees, mats, and transportation.
 - Paid through MyPaymentsPlus
- Member Provided Required Items (Returners should already have these)
 - Warm up suit ~**\$35** RETURNERS WILL NEED (link to purchase provided soon)
 - White fleece jacket to pair with velvet dress ~**\$20** RETURNERS WILL NEED (link to purchase provided soon)
 - Team Raincoat ~**\$10** (Link to purchase provided soon)
 - Team warm up suit, white fleece jacket, and raincoat will need to be embroidered, more information to come soon.
 - Team Water Bottle ~**\$15** (Link to purchase provided soon)
 - Plain Black athletic shorts
 - Black jazz shoes (Can be purchased via Amazon, DiscountDance.com, Academy Sports, or local dance stores)

Injury Plan of Action

The health and safety of every team member is a top priority. All injuries—no matter how minor they may seem—must be reported immediately to the coach or band director.

- If a student is injured during practice or a performance, they must stop participating immediately and inform the coach.
- Every effort will be made to contact the student's parent/guardian at the time of the incident.
- If contact cannot be made during the event, a full report will be given to the parent/guardian in person when they arrive to pick up the student.
- If the student's parent/guardian cannot pick them up immediately, the student will sit out for the remainder of the practice or event under supervision.
- Students suspected of having a concussion must receive a **professional medical evaluation** and may not return to practice or performance without clearance.

- Any student diagnosed with a concussion must be medically cleared in writing by a licensed medical doctor (MD) or doctor of osteopathic medicine (DO) in the state of Louisiana before resuming any physical activity.
- Medical clearance must be submitted to the coach before returning to rehearsals or performances.
- An ambulance may be called at the discretion of the coach or band directors if necessary for student safety.
- Hiding an injury or failing to report it to the coach or band director is considered a serious safety violation and may result in dismissal from the team, regardless of prior demerits or status.
- The MHS Mainsails Color Guard will follow all LHSAA Basic Rules regarding athlete safety and injury protocols.

Grades and Discipline

Each team member is required to maintain a 2.0 or higher grade point average and may not fail ANY class for a 9-week period. Grades will be reviewed at the end of each nine weeks. Each team member is required to turn in a copy of the nine weeks' report card to the Coach. If grades fall below a 2.0 GPA or you fail a class for a 9-week period, you will be placed on academic probation for one nine weeks. If grades are not raised or you fail any class at the end of the semester, you will be dismissed from the team.

Your 1st Block Guard class grade will be determined by attendance and participation. Spinning Tests/video assignments will also count toward your grade.

All members must have and maintain a clean discipline record according to the handbook with MHS and at the junior high level. If a team member is issued an after-school detention during weekly practice, it will be considered an unexcused absence. If a team member is issued a Saturday school during a weekend practice, it will be considered an unexcused absence.

Being a member of the MHS Mainsails is both a privilege and a responsibility. All members are expected to uphold the standards of the team, school, and community at all times.

At the same time, members are expected to uphold team standards at all times. The following actions may result in a disciplinary meeting with the coach and/or band directors and may impact a member's eligibility for performances, awards, or continued team membership:

Behaviors Leading to a Disciplinary Meeting (Poor Standing):

- Cell phone use during class, practice, or team events
- Wearing an incorrect or incomplete practice or performance uniform
- Habitual tardiness to practice or events
- Using inappropriate language in practice or performances.
- Being unprepared for practice (not knowing choreography, missing equipment, etc.)
- Failure to personally inform staff of an absence in advance
- Unexcused absence from practice, events, or performances
- Receiving after-school or Friday detentions
- Receiving in-school or out-of-school suspension
- Violating any part of the MHS Student Handbook
- Violating the Social Media Policy
- Showing a disruptive, disrespectful, or uncooperative attitude toward coaches, teammates, or staff
- Exhibiting a pattern of poor behavior or noncompliance

All incidents will be addressed on a case-by-case basis, and consequences will be at the discretion of the sponsor and coaching staff, including possible probation, alternate status, or removal from the team.

A member may be dismissed from the team for the following reasons:

- Accumulating three disciplinary meetings with the band directors and coach
- Violating school rules, civil laws, or participating in illegal activities
- Having a GPA fall below 2.0 or failing any class for the semester
- Demonstrating disrespect toward any team member, instructor, coach, or school official

Guard Class and Practice

Members must be dressed appropriately, in the correct uniform, and ready with their equipment at the start of class or practice.

Expectations for Guard Class (1st Block):

- This is a dedicated time for conditioning, training, and rehearsal. It is not a time for makeup tests or assignments (these should be scheduled before school, after school on non-practice days, or during MAP)
- Students will not be allowed to visit other teachers, the office, or friends.
- Eating lunch or snacks or snacks during class or rehearsal is not permitted, this is part of being prepared for rehearsal before it starts.

Illness or Injury During School Day:

- If a member becomes sick during the school day and will miss practice, they must email the coach directly as soon as possible, in case practice plans need to be altered for other students.
- Messages passed through teammates or family members will not be accepted.

- If a member stays at school but is too ill or injured to practice, they are expected to still observe practice to prevent loss of instruction for when the student is able to participate again.
- Repeated days sitting out will require documentation in the member's guard journal to maintain participation points.

Practice Policy:

- If practice is missed on the Thursday before a performance, at the coaches and directors discretion, a student may be ineligible to perform but still required to attend the event.
- Extenuating circumstances will be reviewed at the coach's discretion.

Student Resources

- Link to Calendar and Band Website:



- Members only portal for choreo and technique videos:



MHS 2025-2026 Mainsails Colorguard/Winterguard Contractual Agreement

I have received a copy of the MHS Mainsails Color Guard Handbook, the Mainsails Disciplinary/Merit System and the Fees & Fundraising page. I understand that I am responsible for adhering to the Rules and Regulations and the Disciplinary/Merit System. I also understand that I am responsible for paying all fees on time. I understand that I must accept the necessary consequences for any behavior that is not in compliance with Color Guard policy.

Guard Team Member Name (Print and sign)

Date

I, the parent/guardian of the above named, have read the Color Guard Handbook and understand all of the requirements in order for my child to continue team participation, as well as the ramifications if this contract is broken or violated. I fully comply with all rules and regulations within the Mainsails Color Guard Handbook and understand my actions can result in my child's dismissal from the team. I also realize this is a team effort, and I will be called upon to help in some way throughout the year with things that are within my capacity to help. I will make every effort to do my share of assisting on behalf of my child.

Parent/guardian (Print and sign)

Date

Head Coach (Print and Sign)

Date

Director of Bands (Print and Sign)

Date