

## Frequently Asked Questions:

**Q: Does Color Guard require time outside of school?**

A: Yes. Once school begins, Color Guard typically practices on 2 weeknights, and some Saturdays. The Guard also performs with the Marching Band at football games on Friday evenings and at several competitions throughout the state that are held on Saturdays in October and early November.

**Q: When is the official start of the season?**

A: The Winterguard season begins at the end of the first Semester. The Fall season begins with summer sectionals and a camp prior to the start of school.

**Q: What does Color Guard cost?**

A: All Guard students are asked to contribute a \$500 "Fair-share" to help offset coach salaries, show design, equipment, etc. This can be an AZ Tax Credit (100% returned in Tax Refund / Credit) No student will be denied participation if they cannot pay. There is also a fee for any overnight/ out-of-state trips.

**Q: I want to participate in a fall sport. Can I still participate in the Color Guard?**

A: No. The involved schedules and specific training for Guard and Sports makes participating in both during the Fall unrealistic. However, Winter and Spring sports have no conflict with Guard, so a very large number of Guard students are athletes during the winter and spring, ensuring that they have the benefits of participating in all of their interests without giving up either Guard or Athletics.

**Q: I'm taking a lot of courses in high school...can I still fit Color Guard into my schedule?**

A: Absolutely! There are many Guard students who have a full schedule during their high school career. In fact, most report that their participation in Guard is an extremely important component of their overall course-load. It counts as graduation credit for your Fine/Performing Arts Elective.

**Q: How do I try out or sign up for Color Guard?**

A: Simply contact Mrs. Schmit or just show up to the "Clinic" dates. Our staff and student leadership team members will get you any information you need and get you started in the *award-winning MRHS Color Guard!*

# You're Invited!

**Dance and Spin Clinics for the Mountain Ridge H.S. Color Guard start in November!**

## "Dance Clinic"

### Dates

**Wednesday, May 1st  
5:00-7:00 PM**

## "Spin Clinic"

### Dates

**Wednesday, May 8th  
5:00-7:00 PM**

- **Meet at MRHS in the Band Room**
- **Enter through Auditorium Lobby**
- **F-building Room F158**
- **No previous experience required**
- **Wear comfortable work-out clothes or dance attire - no jeans**
- **Come with an open mind and be ready to have fun!**

# Mountain Ridge Color Guard



Ashley Schmit, Color Guard Director

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# Mountain Ridge Color Guard

## What is Color Guard?

The Color Guard is the exciting dance component of the Marching Band. Students perform with the Band at all events, incorporating dance and equipment, such as flags and rifles, to add to the performance of the Band in a visually stunning manner. The Color Guard has an experienced, professionally-trained instructional staff that help students learn equipment fundamentals and routines, as well as instruct students in various dance styles.

## Girls AND Guys are welcome!!!

The Color Guard is open to girls and guys, and we encourage guys who have an interest in dance, or would like to perform with the Band to give the Guard a try.



## Dance Experience

While previous dance experience is helpful, it is not required. The Color Guard is open to all interested students, regardless of experience level with dance. Highly qualified instructors will work with students to develop dance skills in ballet, jazz, modern, and hip-hop styles, as well as introduce the equipment techniques for performance with flags, rifles, and sabers.

## Levels

We have three levels to fit students of ALL ability levels:

- 🎒 Middle School
- 🎒 Junior Varsity
- 🎒 Varsity

## How to Register for Guard:

- 🎒 Register for **Color Guard** or the Fall and Spring semesters with your counselor.
- 🎒 Contact Ms. Schmit if you have a full course load and she will discuss options with you!
- 🎒 Attend the Dance and Spin Clinics in May

## Is Color Guard a Class?

Color Guard students register for the "*Color Guard*" class which is scheduled during the school day as an 7th-hour class. Students receive *elective credit* for participation.

During the fall, the Color Guard rehearses with the MRHS Marching Band and performs with the Band at all events, including football games, competitions, parades, and other performances for the school and community. The Color Guard will also schedule separate "sectional" rehearsals to improve the performance of the Guard outside of the full Marching Band rehearsal.

## Recent Awards and Accomplishments:

The Mountain Ridge Color Guard has received numerous awards, including 8 State Championships in Winter Guard, and are the current State Champion in both Winter Guard (Spring Season) and Marching Band (Fall Season). In addition, the Guard has won top honors and caption awards for visual, general effect, and auxiliary at multiple competitions throughout our regular season.

The Varsity Winterguard is the current WGI Phoenix Regional Champion, and were Semi-Finalists in Scholastic Open Class at the 2018 WGI Winter Guard International Championships in Dayton, OH.

*We want you to become a member of this award-winning group!*

