

2016-17 Byrnes Guard Program

2016 Byrnes Color Guard * 2017 Byrnes “Indigo” Winter Guard

2017 Byrnes “A” Winter Guard * 2017 Byrnes Spin Club

Thank you for your interest in the Byrnes Guard Program. Our program is made up of some of the finest students at Byrnes and represents our school, district, and community throughout South Carolina and across the country. The Byrnes Color Guard is made up of approximately 50 students, grades 8-12, who perform alongside our percussionists and wind players as part of the James F. Byrnes Rebel Regiment Marching Band. The James F. Byrnes Rebel Regiment Marching Band is a ten time SC State Marching Band Champion and a fifteen time SC Upper-State Marching Band Champion, has marched in three Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parades, the 2000 Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, and has performed twice on Pearl Harbor Day in Hawaii. This year, the marching band will be performing at all home football games as well as local marching band contests, culminating in the SC 5A State Marching Competition.

The Byrnes Winter Guards are part of the District Five Winter Guard Program which consists of the Byrnes Varsity Indigo Winter Guard, Byrnes A Winter Guard, and Byrnes Spin Club. All three Guards are members of the Carolina Indoor Performance Association (CIPA) and perform and compete with groups from South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee. The Byrnes Varsity Indigo Winter Guard is made up mostly of upperclassmen. Indigo has been named CIPA Circuit Champion multiple times, along with multiple WGI Regional wins and five WGI World Championship finalist appearances. The Byrnes A Winter Guard is made up mostly of 9th and 10th graders and is for members who would like to one day be on Indigo. The A Guard is extremely competitive in the circuit, having won several CIPA circuit championships in several classes as well as appearing in WGI Regional finals consistently. Ten years ago we added a third Winter Guard at Byrnes, the Byrnes Spin Club, which is open to all Byrnes, Florence Chapel, and D.R. Hill students. The Guard is an introductory unit for members that are new to the activity and competes in the Regional AA Class in CIPA, and were circuit champions in 2013.

Membership in these ensembles is a year-long commitment. The success of our program is built on year-round involvement and training. The skills that we work on in marching band are the same skills that insure our success in the winter and vice versa. As part of a nationally competitive program, this year long commitment is

essential, and prospective members should check to make sure that they are willing to commit to these ensembles through April before auditioning for a spot.

Auditions

We hold two sets of auditions – one in late April/early May for the marching band color guard and one in November for Spin Club/A. Auditions are typically based on dance/movement. Some basic equipment and performance skills may also be taught at these times.

If you are interested in auditioning for our ensembles, or if you are moving to our school from a different location, please email Jen.

Summer Rehearsals

The Byrnes Color Guard has a long history of using the summer as an opportunity to get ahead in preparation for the fall and winter seasons. When rising 9th graders join the marching band, they have already been playing their instruments for four years; at most, Guard members have been marching for two. The summer is when we make up this difference. Summer Camps alternate from Advanced to Beginning, though members are welcome to attend both if they desire. We certainly understand that there are many other commitments over the summer months, from family trips to summer camps. The time that members miss can easily be made up by attending the other class's camp, and this will also let our members get to know one another, beginning to advanced and advanced to beginning. During the summer, each member's health is very important. We will be doing quite a bit of physical training and spending time outside. Instructors and staff will be mindful of hazardous weather, but each member must take care of their bodies – eating well, sleeping, using sunscreen, and drinking a lot of fluids. Summer rehearsals and band camp are not helpful if half of the group is sitting on the sideline dehydrated! We will give some helpful information to the students before the heat of the summer gets too awful.

Band Camp

Band Camp is a crucial time in the development of our members and our fall production. These high-intensity rehearsals give us the training time we need to insure all of our members' success in the fall show and the time to teach the work and drill before school starts. Attendance is mandatory at these rehearsals per marching band rules. Performance spots can not be guaranteed for those members that do not attend these camps. This year, the band camp schedule is a bit odd for the guard students – we will be rehearsing in the morning and the night. There will be supervision at school if your student needs to stay all day.

Marching Band Season

The marching band season consists of after-school rehearsals, football games, Saturday rehearsals, and Saturday contests. After-school rehearsals are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 3:45-6:30. For the hotter part of the season, the guard has Monday evening sections from 6-9pm – this enables us to use the band practice field and to take advantage of the cooler weather after the sun goes down. The guard program has an Google calendar that you can link with your mobile devices in addition to a hard copy calendar that will be emailed to you. Attendance is the single greatest factor contributing to the success of our members and our ensemble as a whole. The Byrnes Color Guard is a component of the full band team and every time someone is absent from a rehearsal or especially a performance, the team as a whole suffers. The Attendance is discussed in the team policies..

Winter Guard Season

The Winter Guard season overlaps slightly with the marching band season, as we begin working on the show in late October/early November. The season lasts until early April, and consists of two after-school rehearsals, some Saturday rehearsals, and Saturday contests. “Indigo” rehearses Mondays and Thursdays, 4pm-7pm; “A” Guard rehearses Tuesdays and Fridays, 4pm-7pm; and Byrnes Spin Club rehearses on Wednesdays from 4-7. “Indigo” may also rehearse some Friday nights, 6:30pm-9pm before major competitions. Saturday rehearsals are called as needed in order to prepare for a competition. Last year, “Indigo” and “A” participated in 3-4 local competitions, 2 WGI Regionals and “Indigo” traveled to WGI World Championships. Spin Club attended the local circuit shows. Attendance is crucial to the success of these teams. We work every week to perfect each movement so the members are all moving and performing as a unit. The three Winter Guards are all teams and every time someone is absent from a rehearsal or especially a performance, the team as a whole suffers. More information about Winter Guard will be available once the season draws closer.

Equipment and Supplies

The Rebel Band Booster Club supplies flags, flag poles, tips, weights, tape, and sabres. Each member is **REQUIRED** to purchase a rifle (if he/she does not already own one) from Designs by King. The cost of the rifle is approximately \$40 (not including shipping). Members must have their rifle in hand, taped, and ready to rehearse by their first summer camp. Members that spin sabre will be assigned a sabre for the fall and/or winter. Each season a member is assigned a sabre, he/she will be charged a \$25 rental fee. This fee helps us to maintain the sabres (clean, tighten, etc) and allows us to replace broken sabres. Students should have a roll of white and a roll

of black electrical tape at all times. Members are also REQUIRED to purchase a flag bag for \$25. This bag keeps their equipment and other items organized and protected. Flag bags are each member's personal responsibility. Staff, directors and other instructors are NOT responsible for ANY equipment.

Here is the information needed for ordering a rifle:

https://www.designsbyking.com/king_kong_rifle.php

36" King Kong Rifle Black bolt Black leather strap

Fees

In order to accomplish all of the goals we have discussed this far, takes a huge financial backing. The Rebel Band Booster Club is a tremendous asset for the Color Guard and band programs, providing an amazing amount of support for the staff and students to progress and achieve. Booster Club membership is also a great way for families to stay up to date with the band program and events that are upcoming.

Particularly with membership fees, we do all we can to help families make those payments happen and to keep the fees as low as we possibly can. Payment plans are available through the Booster Club Treasurer. Fundraising is a huge commitment for Guard members as well. As much as attendance is vital to the success of the Color Guard and Winter Guards, paying dues and other fees insure that our program will survive to another year. The three Winter Guards in the district are funded completely out of pocket, out of member dues, and fundraising activities. Failure to completely pay dues, particularly if it becomes habitual, puts each member at risk of not having a future program to participate in!

Please see the attached order form to determine what you need to pay at registration. All members are required to pay fall dues in full before band camp and winter dues in full before the end of next January. All members are required to own grays (member jacket and pants), rehearsal uniform, rifle, flag bag, gloves, shoes and body tights. **If you already have these items, you do NOT have to reorder these items every year** Booster Club memberships are optional, but suggested. Duffel bags are optional, but highly recommended. Sabre rental only applies to students who spin a school-owned sabre. Members will have to purchase their own hair and makeup supplies – costs will vary and often members will pool together and share these items to lower costs. If you have any questions please let us know. We understand that this can be very confusing 😊

Making Payments

Payments can be made at SCHOOL registration for marching band (dates TBA, during the summer) – your marching band fees should be made out to BYRNES HS BAND. If your student is in the 8th grade, you need to make this payment to Sheri Byrd, guard treasurer. Winter guard and any other payments can be put into the gray safe at any time. If you are putting payments in the safe, please make sure you put it into an envelope and you write your student's name and what the payment is for on the outside of the envelope. ALL OTHER PAYMENTS FOR ITEMS OR WINTER GUARD are made out to RBBC.

Fundraising

Unfortunately, the budget provided by the Booster Club and the member's dues do not fully cover the various expenses the Guards encounter over the year. To make up this difference, all members and their parents are expected to participate in our fundraisers. We will need parents involved to help run the Tournament of Bands in early October. This year we are planning a few event fundraisers including: D5 Winter Preview Show (the 2016 Byrnes Winter Guard Dinner and Auction (we need the students to help serve food and the all member and parents to provide items to auction off); and the 2017 CWEA Show at Byrnes (we need volunteers to run the show and concessions). Parents will have an opportunity to work concessions at Bon Secours Wellness Arena, market and participate in a virtual 5K race and sell pine straw as three additional fundraisers for the winter guard program. The entire band program is hosting a mattress sale in the spring as well. PARTICIPATION IN THESE FUNDRAISERS ALLOWS US TO KEEP COSTS DOWN – every family is required to participate! For the CWEA show, every family will be assigned time to volunteer.

Final Thoughts

Please... if you ever have any questions, let us know. The entire guard staff wants everyone that is part of our team to be as informed and involved as they want to be. We love to hear your questions and concerns and will probably also take the opportunity to tell you how wonderful your student is. We are available before and after rehearsals and by e-mail and phone.