UNIVERSITY
BAND

UNIVERSITY

Winter Guard

Handbook (2026-2027)

UNIVERSITY BAND

WINTER GUARD
Handbook (2026)

The University Color Guard is one of the performing ensembles offered by the UHS Band. In the fall, this ensemble performs as a part of the University Marching Band and in the spring performs throughout Central Florida as an active competitor in the Florida Federation of Color Guards Circuit (FFCC) and Winter Guard International (WGI.) Congratulations on being a part of this group! More information can be found at www.UHSband.com by selecting Ensembles → Color Guard.

Expectations

The Winter Guard is a component of the University Band. Guard members are expected to conduct themselves accordingly. Due to our status as a Performing Arts Magnet and the success of all our ensembles in recent years, our band has developed a reputation as one of the premier music education programs in the State of Florida. Students are expected to behave with professionalism, dignity, and humility at all times as representatives of our program.

The Winter Guard, unlike the Marching Band, is *extracurricular*, not co-curricular. Participation in this group is a privilege and must be earned and maintained through a great attitude, hard work, dedication, and the maintenance of strong behavior and academic excellence.

Weekly Schedule

The full winter guard calendar, including all rehearsals and performances, can always be found at www.UHSband.com by clicking “Calendar.”

Rehearsals take place at **University High School**. We are currently working on finding an alternate rehearsal location.

A typical rehearsal week is as follows:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Rehearsal 5:00 - 9:00 PM		Rehearsal 5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal 5:00 - 9:00 PM* *If there is a show the next day.	Performance (see calendar)

Full Calendar

Date	Time	Event
Tuesday, November 17, 2026	3:00 - 6:00 PM	Initial Membership Meeting
Thursday, November 19, 2026	3:00 - 6:00 PM	Auditions
Tuesday, December 1, 2026	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal
Thursday, December 3, 2026	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal
Tuesday, December 8, 2026	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal
Thursday, December 10, 2026	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal
Tuesday, December 15, 2026	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal
Thursday, December 17, 2026	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal
Tuesday, January 5, 2027	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal
Thursday, January 7, 2027	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal
Tuesday, January 12, 2027	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal
Thursday, January 14, 2027	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal
Tuesday, January 19, 2027	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal
Thursday, January 21, 2027	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal
Friday, January 22, 2027	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal
Saturday, January 23, 2027	**All Day**	**FFCC Premiere** *Flagler Palm Coast HS*
Tuesday, January 26, 2027	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal
Thursday, January 28, 2027	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal
Friday, January 29, 2027	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal
Saturday, January 30, 2027	**All Day**	**FFCC Orange City** *University HS (Volusia County)*
Tuesday, February 2, 2027	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal
Thursday, February 4, 2027	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal
Tuesday, February 9, 2027	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal
Thursday, February 11, 2027	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal
Friday, February 12, 2027	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal

Date	Time	Event
Saturday, February 13, 2027	**All Day**	**FFCC Lyman** *Lyman HS*
Monday, February 15, 2027	10:00 AM - 8:00 PM	Rehearsal
Tuesday, February 16, 2027	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal
Thursday, February 18, 2027	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal
Friday, February 19, 2027	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal
Saturday, February 20, 2027	**All Day**	**WGI Tampa** *Durant HS*
Tuesday, February 23, 2027	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal
Thursday, February 25, 2027	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal
Tuesday, March 2, 2027	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal
Thursday, March 4, 2027	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal
Friday, March 5, 2027	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal
Saturday, March 6, 2027	**All Day**	**FFCC Oviedo** *Oviedo HS*
Tuesday, March 9, 2027	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal
Thursday, March 11, 2027	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal
Friday, March 12, 2027	10:00 AM - 8:00 PM	Rehearsal
Saturday, March 13, 2027	**All Day (Part 1)**	**WGI Orlando**
Sunday, March 14, 2027	**All Day (Part 2)**	**WGI Orlando**
Saturday, March 20, 2027	**All Day**	**FFCC University** *The One True University HS*
Tuesday, March 23, 2027	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal
Thursday, March 25, 2027	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal
Tuesday, March 30, 2027	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal
Thursday, April 1, 2027	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal
Friday, April 2, 2027	5:00 - 9:00 PM	Rehearsal
Saturday, April 3, 2027	**All Day**	**FFCC Championships**

Attendance Policy

Attendance at ALL practices and performances is mandatory. Students who miss rehearsals may be removed from performance at the director's discretion.

For off-campus events where no bus is provided, students must meet at the show site at the designated report time. Once dismissed, students are responsible for their own transportation home. For off-campus events where a bus is provided, students must be on campus for report time and leave campus no later than half an hour (30 minutes) after the end of a scheduled rehearsal or the ensemble's return from an event.

If you must miss a rehearsal or performance, you must notify both the band directors and guard staff by sending an email with the absence date and a valid reason to guard@UHSband.com.

Financial Responsibilities

The University Winter Guard has a large operational budget to pay for experienced instructional staff, equipment, uniforms, props, and travel. Members of the guard must raise a small portion of this to help offset these costs. The total Winter Guard assessment for the 2026-2027 season will be $400, due on the 15th of each month.

$100.00	due December 15
$100.00	due January 15
$100.00	due February 15
$100.00	due March 15

Please note that these assessments will not cover the full cost of the Winter Guard's operation. All guard members may be required to participate in additional fundraising activities, and small purchases of individual equipment (gloves, tights, makeup, etc.) may be necessary. Members who take no steps to fulfill their financial obligations may be removed from performance at the director's discretion.

Transportation

The Winter Guard rehearses at **University High School**. We are working on securing an alternate location. Once that is done, students may responsible for securing their own transportation from University High School to practice and must be picked up from the rehearsal site.

Furthermore, budgeting for a school bus would raise winter guard fees by hundreds of dollars; to avoid this, students will meet at the performance site for all off-campus events. Students will be responsible for arranging their own transportation to and from performances.

Requirements

A GPA of 2.5 is required to remain eligible for participation in the Winter Guard. Individuals whose GPA falls below this will not be invited to participate. If a member's GPA falls below this during the season, a director/parent/student meet must be held as soon as possible.

A week contains 168 hours; in any given week, there are 8-12 hours of Winter Guard rehearsal. It is not acceptable to use Winter Guard as an excuse to fall behind in your academics.

Students are expected to abide by the OCPS Code of Student Conduct at all times, and to generally behave in a mature and dignified manner.

All members are encouraged to be enrolled in a dance class during the school day. Membership in the marching band is required during the fall unless a prior arrangement is made with the band director.

WGI Performer Release

All performers must fill out the appropriate Winter Guard International Performer Release:

Performer Release (Minor) – English

Performer Release (18+) – English

Performer Release (Minor) – Español

Performer Release (18+) – Español

Dismissal from Group

If requirements are not met, a student may be removed from the group at the discretion of the band director and guard director. Winter Guard fees up until the point of dismissal are not refundable, but no further fees would be assessed.

Communication

Please use guard@UHSband.com for all Winter Guard related communications. Team members will also be given information about joining the "Slack" app for announcements and discussion.

Agreement

Please review the UHS Winter Guard Handbook online by visiting

www.UHSband.com/members/forms

or by using the QR code to the right.

Agreement

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the terms of the UHS Winter Guard Handbook.

Band Director	Band Director	Student
Parent	Parent	Student ID Number