

# About the Colorguard Staff...

Instructor **Jacqueline Ortega** is in her 6th year with the WCHS Colorguard. As a student at WCHS, Jacqueline was a Colorguard Captain for two years. Upon her graduation, Jacqueline joined staff with commitment to excellence. Jacqueline has recently graduated from Mt. Sac, and is currently attending Cal North Northridge. She is studying Interior Design and is recognized on the Dean's Honor Roll. Jacqueline is talented in flag, rifle and sabre technique along with movement. In addition to her skills, Jacqueline also served as a Colorguard instructor for the United Spirit Association.

Instructor **Angie Vargas** is in her 3rd year with the WCHS Colorguard. As a member of the WCHS Colorguard, Angie served as a Captain for the 2003-2004 school year. Angie is now a Senior at Cal State Los Angeles, where she is studying English in hopes of becoming a high school teacher. This past winter season, Angie marched with Corona "Light" Independent Winterguard, and is beginning her second year with this team. Angie enjoys all aspects of Colorguard, and equally loves instructing and performing.

Instructor **Danielle Ortega** is in her 3rd year with the WCHS Colorguard. As a high school student, Danielle was a Colorguard Captain. Upon her graduation in 2005, Danielle returned willing to uphold the standard of excellence of this program. Danielle currently attends Mt. Sac, and has an additional job aside from the high school. Danielle is beginning her second summer marching with Pacific Crest Drum & Bugle Corps.

Assistant **Tami Jones** is in her 3rd year with the WCHS Colorguard. Tami also was a Colorguard Captain during her Senior year in 2004-2005, and returned to the program ready to help out in every aspect. Tami is also a student at Mt. Sac and also has a job aside from the high school. This summer will be Tami's second summer marching with Pacific Crest Drum & Bugle Corps.

Assistant **Pete Johnson** is in his 1st year with the WCHS Colorguard. Pete will be a freshman at Cal State Los Angeles this fall. Pete was a well respected member of the Colorguard, dedicating 4 years to the program, and serving as a Captain his Junior & Senior year. Pete will also be marching his first year with Corona Independent World Winterguard this upcoming Indoor Season. We are excited to have him join our staff, and his help is appreciated.

## **A Note from the Staff...**

The Colorguard staff takes great pride in the integrity and honor within this program. We believe that students, as young adults, can be taught the value of hard work, discipline and leadership. We uphold the highest standards and are guided by the virtue of respect for oneself and for each other. Our rewards come from seeing your children's faces light up when they perform and the feeling of elation & pride they experience thereafter. We invite you to be active parents in the program and welcome all of your support throughout the years.

**WEST COVINA HIGH SCHOOL**

# **2007-2008 COLORGUARD**

## **WELCOME**

The 2007-2008 Colorguard experience promises to be fun-filled and rewarding. The WCHS Colorguard has maintained a REMARKABLE reputation in the past 15 years. Today, the team is among the BEST Colorguards in the San Gabriel Valley. During 2006 Field Season, the Colorguard captured several First Place Awards along with some Sweepstakes awards. In our Indoor Seasons, the Colorguard has captured several WGASC championship medals! The Colorguard captured a GOLD MEDAL in 1997, a GOLD MEDAL in 2000, and a BRONZE & GOLD MEDAL in the 2003 season, and most recently, a GOLD MEDAL this past 2007 indoor season.

The WCHS Colorguard represents the finest in marching and musical expression through the use of a variety of dance, flags, rifles, sabers and other props. Colorguard utilizes a great deal of ballet and modern dance technique. Your student will receive training in both movement & equipment.

Throughout the year, the group's responsibilities include performances at rallies, special assemblies, and competitions during Indoor season.

The Colorguard maintains a high level of excellence both in and out of uniform. Membership in the West Covina High School Colorguard requires dedication, determination, and respect in all capacities. As a member, you'll make new friends, share fellowship, enjoy success and proudly represent the Bulldog spirit.

## **DESCRIPTION OF SEASONS & PERFORMANCES**

During the first semester, the Colorguard performs as a part of the Bulldog Band & Colorguard. The unit performs primarily in approximately 6-7 Field competitions and 1-2 Parade competitions. In the second semester, the Colorguard branches off to compete against other Colorguards in 6-8 Winter Guard (Indoor) competitions. School activities, such as rallies, special assemblies, and Band & Colorguard concert performances occur throughout the year.

## **BAND PARENTS ASSOCIATION**

The Band Parents Association (BPA) is the booster club for the WCHS Bulldog Band & Colorguard. The BPA exists to enrich the lives of students and further their musical and artistic interest through the Instrumental Music Department. In addition, the booster club supports the Band and Colorguard in the areas of fundraising, transportation, uniform tailoring and set up on and off the field. To find out more information about the BPA and how you can become a booster, please visit us at [www.wchsbpa.org](http://www.wchsbpa.org).

## COLORGUARD WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	Monday	May 7	3:30 – 6:30pm (intro)
	Tuesday	May 8	3:30 – 6:30pm
	Wednesday	May 9	3:30 – 6:30pm
	Thursday	May 10	3:30 – 6:30pm
	Friday	May 11	3:30 – 6:30pm
WEEK2	Monday	May 14	3:30 – 6:30pm
	Tuesday	May 15	3:30 – 6:30pm
	Wednesday	May 16	3:30 – 6:30pm
	Thursday	May 17	3:30 – 6:30pm
	Friday	May 18	3:30 – 6:30pm
<b>TRY-OUTS</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>May 19</b>	<b>8:00 – 12:00pm</b>
Team Meeting:	Monday	May 21	3:30 – 6:00pm

### DRESS CODE

Throughout workshops you will be expected to wear “PRACTICE CLOTHES.” This consists of shorts, sweats or dance pants, a T-shirt (must reach collarbone), and tennis shoes. Colorguard is a physical activity and you will be working hard as you learn the Try-Out routine. This dress code, as well as the WCHS dress code, will be in effect all year for those individuals making the team.

### ATTENDANCE

Attendance is crucial! Qualification for the team is based on ability and attendance. Students should be present for 3:30 roll call at every workshop. Attendance will be used as a criterion for evaluation. **Fifty percent (50%) of your final Try-Out score will be based on attendance, attitude and dress code.** Those students who sign-up and begin workshops late will NOT be penalized for missed workshops.

### JUDGING PROCEDURES

You will Try-Out in groups of 2 inside the WCHS Gym (located near the tennis courts) on Saturday, May 19, 2007. Try-Outs are closed to all observers. A point system will be utilized for each participant and the final score will be an average of the judges’ scores. Overall scores are based 50% on the Try-Out routine and 50% on workshop attendance, attitude, and dress code. Students should strive for a positive attitude, which consists of working well with others, remaining attentive and accepting help freely.

## **TRY-OUT RESULTS**

The Try-Out results will be posted on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. Although we cannot give an exact time, you can expect the results approximately 30-45 minutes after the last person has completed their Try-Out. Students may wait for the results to be posted after Try-Outs or may wait until Monday, May 21 at which time the results will be posted in the WCHS Band Room, W-9.

The number of qualified candidates will determine the size of the 2007 Colorguard. There is no predetermined maximum or minimum number of members. In order to maintain and continue our success, it is important to base our results on quality rather than quantity!

## **CO-CIRRICULAR / ELIGIBILITY**

Colorguard is co-curricular! This means that, in addition to evening practices and Saturday competitions, COLOGUARD IS A CLASS. **All students making the team must take the Colorguard 1st period class.** This is a mandatory requirement for both new and returning members. Class grade is determined by overall participation both in and out of class time. P.E. credit is awarded to students who fulfill the semester requirements COMPLETELY. Otherwise, credit will be awarded in the area of Fine Arts.

All Colorguard Members **MUST maintain a minimum of a 2.5 Grade Point Average** to remain active as a performer as mandated by school policy. A member whose GPA is unsatisfactory will be placed on a "PROBATION" period during which the student has one (1) grading period to raise his or her GPA. A member who does not raise their GPA will be deemed "INELIGIBLE" and removed from performances. Although we encourage members to stay active as team members, there is no guarantee that the student will retrieve their performance spot for that season. Such decisions are made on a case-by-case basis.

**Attendance:** Members must be present for ALL competitions and performances. **Missing a competition without prior approval by Band Director will affect the student's grade in the Colorguard class.** Members who miss competitions or performances will lose one letter grade per competition. Missing the rehearsal prior to competition may result in the student's dismissal from the upcoming competition and may also thereby affect the student's grade. The Band Director, as the program director, has authority to make an exception for special circumstances.

## **STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE**

An important factor for the Colorguard's continued success is the high expectation to maintain a standard of excellence. **IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ALL MEMBERS UNDERSTAND THAT MAKING THE TEAM DOES NOT GUARANTEE A PERFORMANCE SPOT IN ALL PORTIONS OF THE SHOW.** Performance spots are assigned based on attendance, equipment & movement skills as well as experience.



- The **Warm-Ups** include a **lined jacket, lined pants, shorts,** and a **polo shirt**. The jacket is embroidered with the member's first name along with WCHS Guard for identification. Warm-Ups are worn frequently throughout the year. Warm-Ups are worn to school on Fridays before scheduled competitions as well as on Spirit days. Warm-Ups are also worn at Saturday competitions both before and after performances. This expense is usually a 1 time expense. **Duffel bags and Garment Bags** may be ordered but are optional.
- The **Competition Fee** supplements professional staff instruction, entry fees for Competitions, show design, props and other essential needs for Competition days. The Colorguard especially benefits since the BPA provides a prop account to furnish expensive and elaborate practice and performance flags, performance equipment, garment bags, equipment bags, props, tarps and backdrops.
- The **Field Uniform** is worn during the first semester of school. This includes field competitions, rallies and other special assembly performances. The field uniform changes yearly since it is designed to match the theme of the field show.
- The entire Colorguard is responsible for purchasing a **Flag Bag**. The purpose of the flag bag is for members to learn how to be responsible for their equipment, and to keep track of the condition of their equipment for performances and practices. Students have the option of either purchasing a flag bag or having a parent make it for them.
- The entire Colorguard will learn how to twirl a wood **RIFLE**. Each member will be responsible for the purchase of his or her practice rifle. Practice rifles are solely for training purposes and should be taken home by members on a regular basis. Exceptions and loaner rifles will be available for students who cannot afford the expense of the rifle.

All equipment (flags, poles, props and sabers) are purchased and owned by the BPA. Students must therefore utilize their flag bags, and handle them responsibly. Members are required to take their checked out equipment to and from practice. Any damaged or lost equipment will be charged to the student's account.

## **FUNDRAISERS**

Fundraisers are provided to help students pay for Colorguard expenses since **ELIGIBILITY IS NOT BASED ON ABILITY TO PAY OUT-OF-POCKET**. The success of the fundraisers depends on each member's motivation to raise money. Furthermore, payment plans can be established with the BPA Treasurer. Individual fundraisers can be provided for those students who are in need of additional financial assistance. We hope that the cost of Colorguard is not a deterrent. We will work with students who are motivated to fundraise. Financial aid is also available.

The Band Parents Association requires that Band and Colorguard participate in mandatory fundraisers throughout the school year (50% of the profit will go toward the general fund and 50% will go to the member's individual account).

### REFUND POLICY & FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Any money in a member's account that was raised as a result of Band and/or Colorguard Fundraiser will not be reimbursed to the student in the event that he or she decides to leave the team. This money will go to the general BPA fund. Money paid directly can be returned depending on the amount of instruction and participation experienced.

New accounts are established for all members. Credits and debits are made to each account on a continual basis. In the event that a member decides to quit, that member must **notify the Band Director or Colorguard Staff as soon as possible** (please notify staff, telling a team member is not sufficient). Any uniform parts, materials or labor charged to the member's account prior to notification of quitting will be billed to that member. The balance in the member's account will be billed to the student. A student who quits mid season will be responsible for a portion of the Competition fees since the fees are divided amongst a certain number of students committed to the season. Delinquent accounts will be turned over to the school office. Office staff will not allow students to register for the following school year or graduate until the balance is paid in full.

### SUMMER PRACTICES

The Colorguard will meet regularly during the summer. All members should expect to attend practice on a weekly basis. Although we understand that members often vacation during the summer months, we also expect members to understand that excessive absences can translate into substandard performance abilities, which can reduce the member's likelihood of earning optimum spots in the upcoming field show.

\*\*\*Members are expected to identify scheduling conflicts in advance and fill out an **Absence Notification Form (ANF)**. This process reinforces responsibility and time management in the student as well as prepares staff for missing individuals in the performance. (Telling a team member is not sufficient!)\*\*

### MAY/JUNE PRACTICE SCHEDULE

Monday	May 21	3:30pm – 6pm	First Team Meeting
Wednesday	May 23	4:30pm – 9pm	First Practice
<b>**Day Off</b>	<b>Monday, May 28</b>		<b>Memorial Day</b>
Wednesday	May 30	4:30pm – 9pm	Practice
Monday	June 4	4:30pm – 9pm	Practice
Wednesday	June 6	TBA	<b>First Performance!!!</b> <b>"Spirit Spectacular"</b>

## **SUMMER PRACTICE SCHEDULE**

(Effective Wednesday, June 20)

**Mondays:** 4:30pm – 9pm

**Wednesdays:** 2pm – 4pm Rifle Line  
4:30pm – 9pm

### **BAND CAMP AT WCHS**

Band Camp is designed to introduce the entire Marching Band and Colorguard. During this period, each member will learn routines, marching skills, basics and field show formations. **Since field show spots will be assigned at this time, it is important that all members be present.** There will be one week of Colorguard Camp and two weeks of Band & Colorguard/Drill Camp.

### **COLORGUARD & BAND CAMP SCHEDULE**

Schedule has been revised.  
See [wchsbpa.org](http://wchsbpa.org) for schedule

**Students who are absent from Camps & Drill Week without prior consent from the Band Director or Colorguard Instructors will not earn spots in the Field Show.**

Once school begins, practices will be held Monday and Wednesday nights.

**Colorguard brings us closer together as friends!**

**It is not simply an activity; it is an art.**

**Colorguard teaches us teamwork, individual responsibility, discipline and respect in all capacities.**

**We hold our heads high because this responsibility and maturity brings us honor.**

**We look forward to having you**

**Join our Colorguard Family.**

**WELCOME TO THE 2007-2008 EXPERIENCE  
GOOD LUCK!**

**WEST COVINA HIGH SCHOOL  
2007-2008 COLORGUARD  
CONSENT FORM**

Please take the time to carefully read ALL the information contained in this handbook. Be sure that your parent or guardian reads the entire handbook and understands team policies and financial responsibilities. Both student and parents will need to sign the consent form. Students should submit their form on or before Saturday, May 19, 2007. Anyone failing to submit his or her form will not be allowed to participate in the Try-Out. Please feel free to contact Mr. Olivas or the Colorguard Staff if you have any questions or concerns at (626) 859-2900 ext. 2981.

STUDENT'S NAME (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

I have thoroughly read the 2007-2008 Colorguard Handbook. Should I make the team, I understand and accept the policies, guidelines, time commitment and financial responsibilities.

\_\_\_\_\_  
STUDENT'S SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

I have thoroughly read the 2007-2008 Colorguard Handbook. I understand the policies and guidelines outlined in this handbook. I understand and accept the policies, time commitment and financial responsibility should my son/daughter make the team. I give him/her my consent to Try-Out for the Colorguard on Saturday, May 19, 2007.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE