

The Kiski Area Winter Guard Program

WELCOME.....

Congratulations to your daughter on becoming a part of the Kiski Area Winterguard Program.

To your family, a heartfelt welcome to the Kiski Music Family. We are sure that this season will prove to be a rewarding experience for your daughter and that she will gain a sense of pride in the accomplishments that lie ahead.

We hope that the information provided to you in this book will help you along the way to enjoy and become a part of the Kiski Winterguard Family. The information is beneficial to both you and your daughter.

Please keep this book handy throughout the season. It should answer many of your questions as the season progresses.

From the Directors.....

PRACTICE/COMPETITION SCHEDULE

At the beginning of the season, you will receive a practice/competition schedule. This schedule is issued early in the season so parents can schedule doctor's appointments, etc., around practice/performance days. Please keep the schedule for reference throughout the season. (It will also be available on our website at www.kiskibands.org).

PRACTICE ATTENDANCE

- Great performances are a result of great practices! Winterguard practices are mandatory to prepare for upcoming competitions. If you must miss for any reason, **you MUST call or email Frank Stanko at fstanko65@gmail.com or 412-498-8731.**
- All practices are at Washington Elementary unless otherwise noted. You should arrive at practice early enough to have your equipment ready, fundraising forms turned in, etc. so you are on the floor and ready to begin practice at the designated practice time. (Fifteen minutes early should be sufficient)
- Use practice time wisely. Ask for help if needed and practice trouble spots on your own. Help each other, but ALWAYS focus on the instructor for directions and instruction.
- Take care of your equipment.
- Bring a water bottle to rehearsal.

REQUIRED DRESS

"A" guard - dark, snug fitting dance wear or snug fitting shirts/leggings; hair should be pulled back and off face. No shorts are permitted. No undergarments should be showing.

Regional A guard- dark colored clothing, no undergarments showing, no bootie shorts, hair pulled back.

COMPETITION PARTICIPATION

Always remember that you represent the Kiski Winterguard on and off the floor. Always stay with your group and chaperone at competitions. Be respectful to your chaperones. They are carrying out the rules set by your instructors. When watching other units, be respectful of their efforts.

Parent Information.....

MEDICAL FORMS

Please fill out the Health form and return it at the next rehearsal. This information is vital so that we can reach you in case of an emergency. Also, the form must be signed to guarantee your consent concerning the distribution of medicines and first aid care to your child.

It **does not** need to be signed by your physician. Accurate info from YOU concerning your child's health history is sufficient. For those in marching band, we will use forms signed for that season.

Parents - If you are planning to chaperone any competitions, you must also submit a chaperone health form.

REHEARSALS

- ***Rehearsals are considered closed. This means that parents are to stay in the hallway or behind the closed curtain during rehearsals to reduce distractions.***
- When picking up your daughter from practice, you are encouraged to arrive a few minutes early and come inside to watch the program progress.
- The most important thing you can do for your daughter is to continually support her for her hard work.
- We will have several parent meetings during the season. It's a great way to gather information and have your questions answered.

COMPETITIONS

We will participate in a number of Winterguard competitions this season. Competitions are held at area high schools on Saturday nights. Please refer to the practice/competition schedule for dates. Family members are encouraged to attend the competitions and support our girls.

BUS TRAVEL

- The Winterguard must travel together on a bus to all competitions.
- If, on occasion, you want your daughter to make the trip home with you rather than on the bus, you must notify your daughter's chaperone by writing a note stating that your child will go home with a parent/guardian (not boyfriends, etc.). Your daughter should bring the note when she reports for the competition and give it to the competition chaperone before she gets on the bus.

- The girls must stay with their unit until the conclusion of the competition. If your child is going home with you, you must meet your child's chaperone to sign out your child before they are released to your care. We are very conscientious about the safety of your daughter.

VOLUNTEERING

- We like to have a parent volunteer present at each practice. Your role would be to take care of bumps and bruises or anything else the girls or instructors might need. The parent volunteer should **never interrupt** practice in any way.
- Chaperones for both groups are needed for the Saturday competitions. You must attend an instructional chaperone meeting in order to chaperone, and you must complete a medical form for yourself.
- Participation by our Dad's is very important and very appreciated. We encourage our Dads to volunteer by assisting with the truck on competition day (driving truck/moving floor and props) and assisting with building props as needed.

All parents are encouraged to take an active role during the Winterguard season by volunteering in any way you can. The success of this program relies on active parent participation!

If you would like to volunteer in any way, please be sure to complete and return the volunteer request form you will receive at the beginning of the season or contact Debbie Beer at 724-681-4114.

UNIFORMS

Your daughter will be issued a uniform for the season. You are responsible for the care and cleaning of the Winterguard uniform. Usually, hand washing in cold water is sufficient. It should only be worn for competitions. Jewelry will not be worn unless specified by the instructor. Please DO NOT make alterations to the uniform in any way unless permission is given by the director. Uniforms must be turned in at the end of the season.

SHOW SHIRTS

Each season a "show shirt" is designed to go along with the theme of the Winterguard program. It becomes part of their uniform as the girls are asked to wear it at competitions before and after their performance.

WARM UP SUITS

In addition to the show shirt, a warm up suit will be worn as the official cover up when traveling to and from shows. This is an **additional one time required purchase** that will be used each Winterguard season. Order forms will be distributed shortly.

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

Generally, additional purchases include hair accessories, gloves and possibly makeup. You will be notified of any additional purchases necessary when final uniform decisions have been made.

NEWSLETTER

You will receive a periodic Winterguard newsletter containing important info about upcoming events, fundraising, etc. This will be our major means of communications. Newsletters will be available on our website and are handed out at the end of rehearsal. Also, newsletters will be emailed to parents if an email address is provided. **Email is the best way to stay informed!**

WINTERGUARD ASSESSMENT

Each Winterguard participant is responsible for their financial assessment. You will find a detailed explanation of the assessment in your fundraising guide. Your assessment can be satisfied completely through fundraising, you may make a personal payment, or you can fulfill your assessment through a combination of fundraising and payments.

Students dropping out of the program may be responsible for a partial assessment until a dated notice signed by a parent is received by the instructor.

FUNDRAISING

Winterguard is totally funded through the fundraising process. Students have the opportunity to raise their share through numerous fundraising projects offered throughout the season. You will receive a fundraising book that will explain this process in detail. In addition to individual fundraisers, Winterguard members and their families may be asked to participate in the general fund projects such as our home show and cash bash. **Always make fundraising checks out to KAIB and put your child's name and name of fundraiser in the memo area of each check**

KISKI COMPETITION SHOW

This year, Kiski will be hosting the TRWEA Championships show on March 29, 2013. This show will be a MAJOR general fundraiser for us. It takes the efforts and cooperation of ALL of our parents to make this a successful event. All Winterguard parents are asked to help in some way. All Winterguard participants benefit by this fundraiser as it provides the assessment reduction to each girl. The success of past competitions helped to GREATLY reduce this year's assessment. We would like to continue this policy. As it gets closer to the show date, you will be receiving a volunteer request form. **Please choose the show committee you would prefer to serve on and return it to your parent leader.**

COMPETITION ETIQUETTE

Parents are encouraged to be a receptive audience for each and every Winterguard unit. Every participant works hard and should be applauded for their efforts. Although it is a competition, we show our support for every group.

When your child's unit is performing, please refrain from distracting them by calling out their name, etc. They will be trying to focus on their performance. Competitions are held in the gymnasium, so we are in close quarters. You will only be permitted to enter and exit the gym BETWEEN performances.

THREE RIVERS WINTER ENSEMBLE ASSOCIATION

- We are a part of a local circuit called Three Rivers Winter Ensemble Association (TRWEA).
- TRWEA provides a venue for indoor Colorguard, dance teams, majorettes, and percussion units during the winter months. Both scholastic (school related) and independent groups are a part of this association. We compete under a set guidelines that provide a healthy competitive atmosphere. Our units will compete against other units with similar age, experience, and skill levels.
- TRWEA is a local affiliate of Winterguard International (WGI)
- Admission fee for all competitions is about \$8/adults and \$4/child.

Important websites: www.kiskibands.org
www.trwea.org

FYI.....

AT THE REQUEST OF THE DIRECTOR, PLEASE DO NOT POST VIDEOS OF REHEARSALS OR PERFORMANCES ON FACEBOOK OR OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA SITES UNTIL AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE SEASON.

If you have any questions about the Kiski Area Winterguard Program, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to working with all of you to help our children and staff have a very successful and enjoyable season.

Debbie Beer
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