



**2022-2023  
Hillcrest High School  
Visual Ensemble  
Information Packet**

**\*\*\*Please read all of the information in this packet. By committing to the audition process, you are also committing to being a part of the ensemble for the entirety of the marching season and performances during the post-season.** All dates, requirements, and expectations are given well in advance for you to make an informed decision. If you are selected to be a part of the Visual Ensemble, you are expected to attend **EVERY rehearsal** and **EVERY performance**. Please be sure this activity is something you will be committed to before making this decision.

**Audition Options:**

Students may audition for one or more Visual Ensemble group: majorette, dance, and color guard. All candidates are **strongly encouraged** to audition for more than one group. If a student auditions for more than one group, she should indicate her order of preference on the *Hillcrest High School Visual Ensemble Application*.

**Required Forms and Fees:**

All candidates **MUST** submit the following forms prior to the audition clinics:

- Visual Ensemble Constitution/Demerit Agreement Form
- Hillcrest High School Visual Application (please attach a headshot to form)
- Completed Physical
- Clinic/Audition Fee (\$40)

All required forms and fees must be turned in to **Mr. Christian** no later than **Friday, March 4th**. All money should be turned in before first block begins. Checks should be made out to *Hillcrest High School*. **YOU CANNOT PAY ONLINE! PAYMENTS MUST BE MADE TO MR. CHRISTIAN.**

**\*\*\*Failure to turn in required forms and the clinic/audition fee by the deadline may result in ineligibility to audition and attend the scheduled clinics. All 2021-2022 band/visual fees must be paid in full in order or students to be eligible to attend clinic.**

**Audition Clinic:**

Four mandatory clinics will be held before the audition in order to prepare students for the audition. The clinic days are **Monday, March 7th through Thursday, March 10th**. The clinics will be broken up by visual line, and you will be required to attend the clinic for any and all lines you are auditioning for. The clinic breakdown is as follows:

Guard: 4:00 – 5:00 pm (Monday – Thursday)  
Dance: 5:00 – 6:00 pm (Monday – Thursday)  
Majorette: 6:00 – 7:00 pm (Monday – Thursday)

The apparel for the clinic is comfortable practice clothes and jazz shoes or tennis shoes. Hair should be worn in a ponytail. All clinics will be held in the Hillcrest High School Gymnasium.

Parents are **not allowed** inside the gymnasium or multi-purpose room during the clinics.

**Flag Check Out:**

Anyone interested in auditioning for color guard may check out a flag through Mr. Christian prior to auditions. If you are a current 8<sup>th</sup> grader planning to audition, please email Mr. Christian (wrchristian@tcss.net) to arrange a time to pick one up.

**Visual Audition Date/Time:**

Auditions will be held on **Friday, March 11, 2022** in the Hillcrest High School Gymnasium. Audition times are as follows:

Guard: 4:00 pm  
Dance: 5:00 pm  
Majorette: 6:00 pm

All times are approximate. **Students need to arrive no later than 10 minutes before their audition time.**

Parents are **not allowed** inside the gymnasium or multi-purpose room during the auditions.

**Audition Procedures and Requirements:**

Dance Audition Requirements:

1. Perform dance basics. (A list is provided later in this packet.)
2. Perform group routine. (Learned during clinic.)

Majorette Audition Requirements:

1. Perform baton/body basics. (A list is provided later in this packet.)
2. Perform group routine. (Learned during clinic.)

Color Guard Audition Requirements:

1. Perform flag/body basics. (A list is provided later in this packet.)
2. Perform group routine. (Learned during clinic.)

All students will report to the multi-purpose room at least 10 minutes prior to their audition time using the door at the back of Hillcrest High School. Students will randomly draw an audition number. Students will be briefed on details about the audition process upon arrival. The judging panel will consist of qualified individuals selected by the band directors and sponsor. **Auditions are closed to the public.** Additionally, parents may not wait in the preparation room (multi-purpose room). Once the audition begins, students will not be allowed to leave the holding area for any reason until the audition is complete.

**Audition Attire:**

**Dance/Majorettes:** leotard, black shorts (optional), tights, jazz shoes, hair in a styled ponytail, and show make-up. Stud earrings will be allowed. **No colored nail polish and no other jewelry.**

**Color Guard:** leotard or fitted tank, black shorts, tights, jazz shoes, hair in a styled ponytail, and show make-up. Stud earrings will be allowed. **No colored nail polish and no other jewelry.**

**Audition Results:**

All results are final. Results will be posted on the Hillcrest High School Band website (<https://www.hillcresthighschoolband.com/>) by **Saturday, March 12th at 4:00 pm.**

Judges' comment sheets are available by request from the band director. Score sheets will not be available.

**Section Leader/Captain Selections:**

Leadership positions will be decided after members are selected. Selections will be made by the band directors and sponsor and will be based on ability, attitude, and leadership potential. Leadership candidates will participate in an interview with the directors and sponsor (more information will be provided later).

**Financial Obligations:**

New Members: \$1300

Returning Members: \$600 (plus any extra items needed)

Visual Fees cover 95% of the cost for the visuals, including uniforms, additional outfits, summer camp, equipment, field equipment, instruction, and supplies. A payment schedule is listed below:

**April 5, 2022** - \$300 due

**May 17, 2022** - \$300 due

**June 21, 2022** - \$300 due

**August 12, 2022** – remaining balance due



### **Visual Ensemble Meeting**

The first Visual Ensemble Meeting after auditions will be held **Tuesday, April 5th at 5:30 pm**. The first Visual Ensemble payment of \$300 will be due at the April 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

### **Spring/Summer Obligations:**

Visual Ensemble members will be required to attend ALL of the following commitments in the spring and summer (at Hillcrest High School) in order to remain an active member:

1. **Spring After School Obligations** – Members will be required to attend all after school workouts after audition results are announced. The dates are listed below. Workouts will be held from 3:30 to 4:30 pm at Hillcrest High School.
  - a. **April 19 & 26**
  - b. **May 10, 17, & 24**
2. **Summer Workouts** – Members will be required to attend scheduled workouts during the summer. All workouts will be held at Hillcrest High School.
  - a. **June 7 & 21 from 9-11 am**
  - b. **July 12 from 9-11 am**
3. **Band Camp** – Members will be required to attend Band Camp, which will be held at Hillcrest High School.
  - a. **July 20 – August 2** (excluding Saturdays and Sundays)
  - b. Camp Registration will be held on July 18 & 19 (specific times will be provided later)

### **Fall After School Obligations:**

Members will be required to attend ALL after-school practices during the fall marching season. A more detailed schedule will be given to members in May. Typical rehearsal schedules are **Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 3:30 to 5:30 pm**.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Miller, Mr. Christian, or Ms. Gentile by email (see below). Thank you for your interest in the Hillcrest High School Visual Ensemble!

Sincerely,

Meghan Miller (msmiller@tcss.net) – Director of Bands  
Will Christian (wrchristian@tcss.net) – Associate Director of Bands  
Madeline Gentile (mkgentile@tcss.net) – Visual Ensemble Sponsor



# Visual Ensemble Audition Fundamentals

Fundamentals for each group will be chosen from the following list:

## COLOR GUARD

### Toss & Tricks

Speed Spin Toss  
Parallel Toss  
J Toss  
Around the World Twirls  
Butterfly Twirls  
45 Toss

### Flag Basics

Right Shoulder  
Drop Spins  
Right Shoulder  
Drop Spins  
Speed Spins  
Cones  
Thumb Flip/Pull Hit/Slams Combo

### Body Basics

Jazz Run  
Single Pirouette  
Chasse  
Sauté  
Right Shoulder into Drop  
Spins  
Slams

## DANCELINÉ

### Turn Basics

Chaine  
Soutanu  
Pique (right and left)  
Fouette  
Double Pirouette

### Jump, Kick, & Trick Basics

Calypso  
Tour Jete  
Right Split Leap  
Middle Leap  
High Kicks  
Fan Kicks  
Firebird

### Body Basics

Jazz Run  
High March  
Chasse  
Splits (right and left)  
Pas de Bourree

## MAJORETTE

### One Baton Basics

Right Thumb Roll Flips  
Left Backhand Releases  
Finger Twirls (vert. & horiz.)  
One Turn (vert. & horiz.)  
Two Turn (vert.)  
Toss Bow  
Figure Eights  
Back Catches  
Right Deer Leaps w/Right Flash

### Two Baton Basics

Flash and Figure Eights  
Finger Twirls (vert.)  
Toss Two-Hand Spin  
Horizontal Toss with Neck Wrap  
Backhand Release (L) with Flash (R)

### Body Basics

Jazz Run  
High March  
Chasse  
Pas de Bourree  
Illusion  
Right Split Leap  
High Kicks  
Sauté Arabesque



## HILLCREST HIGH SCHOOL VISUAL ENSEMBLE CONSTITUTION

### **Purpose of the Group**

To promote school spirit and provide visual appeal as part of the band by participating in half-time shows, pep rallies, and other performances.

- A. The “visual ensemble” or “visuals,” Dance line, Color Guard, and Majorette lines, will consist of a number decided on by the band director(s) and sponsor(s).
- B. The visuals are subject to all band rules, regulations, and policies, in addition to those mentioned herein.
- C. Cooperation among members is expected. Behavior inconsistent with that expectation will not be tolerated and can result in dismissal from the band. “Cooperating” is defined as having open communication with the band director(s) and sponsor(s), as well as respecting and following the leadership and decisions of the band director(s) and sponsor(s).

### **I. Audition Information**

Students in the eighth, ninth, tenth, and eleventh grades are eligible to audition. Each auditioning individual must meet the following criteria:

- A. Be eligible according to TCSS and Hillcrest High School Guidelines.
- B. Be free of no *more* than two conduct violations and school suspensions for the current academic year in any class.
- C. Have **all** required permission forms and other paperwork signed and turned in to the appropriate person by the appropriate deadline.
- D. Have any and all outstanding visual and Band related debt paid in full from previous years.
- E. Have not been previously dismissed from the band for any disciplinary reason, unless the student has been approved to audition by both the band director(s) and the sponsor(s).
- F. Have not voluntarily quit the band at Hillcrest High School without prior consent of the band director(s) and sponsor(s) within the previous year. This includes but is not limited to being selected to the Visual Ensemble and “quitting” at any point after the audition process.
- G. Have a doctor’s physical examination on file. Any condition/limitation not on the physical can result in permanent suspension from the band.



### **Other Audition Information**

- A. A panel, consisting of the band director(s) and sponsor(s), will select and assemble judges for the selection of visual members.
- B. Upon the recommendation of the band director(s) and sponsor(s), a student may be allowed membership as a visual if said student is unable to participate in the audition process because of serious illness, injury, other medical issue, or by other just cause.

## **II. Visual Membership Requirements and Policies**

Each visual member must meet the following requirements to remain a member of the band:

- A. Have school or family insurance.
- B. Have transportation to and from all activities and practices scheduled by the band director(s) and sponsor(s). *Transportation to and from out of town football games will be provided by school bus or commercial transportation.*
- C. Be in attendance and on time (preferably early) to all practices and activities.
- D. Attend scheduled workouts, visual, **and** band camps as scheduled by the band director(s) and sponsor(s). Any student that does not attend all camps can be dismissed from the band for the year.
- E. Maintain academic eligibility.
- F. Keep an emergency bag handy, to include the following items: tampons/pads, tights, lipstick, blush, and any other items necessary for emergencies. The sponsor(s) must approve additional items.
- G. The band director(s) and/or sponsor(s) have full rights to remove, cancel, or change any and all routines as necessary. This includes music selections.
- H. Alter or hem any uniform as requested by the band director(s) or sponsor(s) for any reason. Any expenses incurred are the responsibility of the individual.
- I. Adhere to the "Attendance Policies," and "Appearance Guidelines" as stated below.
- J. Abide by this Constitution, and all the terms stated within.

### **Other Visual Membership Requirements and Policies**

- A. Payment notifications will be given to the student member during the Fall semester, but at least seven (7) days prior to the due date.
- B. Members may not invite or bring friends to practice unless approved by the band director(s) and the sponsor(s) in advance.
- C. Visual and full band activities such as eating out, cookouts, parties, etc. will be for members only unless otherwise notified by the band director(s) and/or sponsor(s).
- D. Fundraisers will be held throughout the year. Some fundraisers may be optional, however "Home Game Parking" is mandatory. Members are expected to participate in all mandatory fundraisers, whether visual specific or for full band.

### **III. Attendance Policies**

- A. Members are required to be present at all practices and activities scheduled by the band director(s) and/or sponsor(s).
- B. If a member misses one practice for any unexcused reason in any week, they will not be allowed to perform that week without band director(s) and sponsor(s) approval. The band director(s) and sponsor(s) have full and exclusive rights to determine what reasons constitute excused or unexcused on a case by case basis.
- C. Routine doctor's appointments should be made for non-practice days. To be excused from any practice, the band director(s) and/or sponsor(s) must be informed in advance, and may require a doctor's excuse as proof.

### **IV. Appearance Guidelines**

- A. During scheduled performances and other events and activities, members must be aware of their appearance at all times by following these guidelines:
  - 1. Clean uniform/equipment
  - 2. No visible, unapproved, unnatural colors added to hair
  - 3. No jewelry (unless part of uniform as determined by the band director(s) and sponsor(s))
  - 4. No colored nail polish
  - 5. No runs in stockings (an extra pair needs to be carried to each event)
  - 6. Wearing performance make-up
- B. The band director(s) and sponsor(s) must approve all attire. This includes t-shirts, pants, skirts, shoes, pull-overs, etc. (Anything worn in the name of the band)
- C. Uniforms will only be worn for school functions.
- D. While in uniform (and even when they are not), members should be aware that they are representing their families, community, school, band, band director(s), and sponsor(s). Behavior should be consistent with that of the Tuscaloosa County Board code of conduct.
- E. Underarms and legs must be shaved.

### **V. Suspension from the band**

- A. Repeated violation of school rules will result in permanent suspension from the band.
- B. Any student receiving more than three discipline referrals to the office in the preceding year will not be allowed to audition for any line.
- C. Permanent suspension prevents the member from auditioning for the band in the future.

### **VI. Rights of the Band Director(s) and Sponsor(s)**

- A. The band director(s) and sponsor(s) may make exceptions to the provisions of this constitution if at any time he/she/they feel(s) it is in the best interest of the student or band.



**Hillcrest High School Visual Ensemble**  
**DEMERIT SYSTEM**

<b><u>Offense</u></b>	<b><u>Demerit Amount</u></b>
1. Not performing at an assigned event (unexcused)	15
2. Missing a practice (unexcused)	15
3. Reporting late for an event or practice	5
4. Chewing gum while at practice or performance	5
5. Use of inappropriate language in public at ANY time	10
6. Discipline problem referred to a teacher, school office, band director, or sponsor	10
7. Unbecoming conduct that negatively reflects upon the reputation of an individual, squad, or school, on or off campus	15
8. Inappropriate displays of affection in public	10
9. Insubordination to the sponsor, band director, school faculty, or section leader	15
10. <b>Not in proper practice attire (incorrect shirt, shoes, shorts, etc.)</b>	<b>5</b>
11. <b>Not in proper performance attire (uniform, earrings, shoes, etc.)</b>	<b>10</b>
12. Displays inability to be a team player	15
13. Additional situations that arise will be dealt with at the discretion of the band director, sponsor, and/or principal and will be assigned demerits accordingly	

A Visual Ensemble candidate will be eliminated from the audition process if she accumulates 30 demerits after review of the current school year's discipline record. A Visual Ensemble member will be suspended for one full game performance if she accumulates **30 demerits**. If the member accumulates 15 additional demerits, **for a total of 45**, she will be dismissed from the Visual Ensemble and will be unable to audition for the following year.

If a student is dismissed from the Visual Ensemble/Band Program, refunds of fees will not be given.



**Visual Ensemble Constitution/Demerit Agreement Form:**

**We, both the parent/guardian and student, acknowledge and agree to abide by the terms, rules, and regulations that are stated in the 2022-2023 Visual Ensemble Constitution/Demerit Form. We have thoroughly read this handbook and have no questions about any of the content. Furthermore, should we have any questions or concerns at any time, we agree to contact the director or sponsors immediately**

Student Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Hillcrest High School**  
**Visual Application**  
*General Information*

Applicant Headshot

**Audition Intention**

Which Visual line will you be auditioning for? *(number in order of preference, ie. 1, 2, 3)*

\_\_\_\_\_ Majorette

\_\_\_\_\_ Color Guard

\_\_\_\_\_ Dance

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**Student Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home #: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Information**

Parent's Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother Work #: \_\_\_\_\_ Father Work #: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_ Father Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_



**ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**  
**Preparticipation Physical Evaluation Form**  
**Revised 2018**

Revised 2018

**History**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_  
 School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sport \_\_\_\_\_

Explain "Yes" answers below:	Yes	No
1. Has a doctor ever restricted/denied your participation in sports?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Have you ever been hospitalized or spent a night in a hospital? Have ever had surgery?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Do you have any ongoing medical conditions (like Diabetes or Asthma)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Are you presently taking any medications or pills (prescription or over-the-counter)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Do you have any allergies (medicine, pollens, foods, bees or other stinging insects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Have you ever passed out during or after exercise? Have you ever been dizzy during or after exercise? Have you ever had chest pain or discomfort in your chest during or after exercise? Do you tire more quickly than your friends during exercise? Have you ever had high blood pressure? Have you ever been told that you have a heart murmur, high cholesterol, or heart infection? Have you ever had racing of your heart or skipped heartbeats? Has anyone in your family died of heart problems or a sudden death before age 50? Does anyone in your family have a heart condition? Has a doctor ever ordered a test on your heart (EKG, echocardiogram)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Do you have any skin problems (itching, rashes, staph, MRSA, acne)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Have you ever had a head injury or concussion? Have you ever been knocked out or unconscious? Have you ever had a seizure? Have you ever had a stinger, burner, pinched nerve, or loss of feeling or weakness in your arms or legs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Have you ever had heat or muscle cramps? Have you ever been dizzy or passed out in the heat?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Do you have trouble breathing or do you cough during or after activity? Do you take any medications for asthma (for instance, inhalers)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Do you use any special equipment (pads, braces, neck rolls, mouth guard, eye guards, etc.)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Have you had any problems with your eyes or vision? Do you wear glasses or contacts or protective eye wear?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Have you had any other medical problems (infectious mononucleosis, diabetes, infectious diseases, etc.)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Have you had a medical problem or injury since your last evaluation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Have you ever been told you have sickle cell trait? Has anyone in your family had sickle cell disease or sickle cell trait?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Have you ever sprained/strained, dislocated, fractured, broken or had repeated swelling or other injuries of any bones or joints? <input type="checkbox"/> Head <input type="checkbox"/> Back <input type="checkbox"/> Shoulder <input type="checkbox"/> Forearm <input type="checkbox"/> Hand <input type="checkbox"/> Hip <input type="checkbox"/> Knee <input type="checkbox"/> Ankle <input type="checkbox"/> Neck <input type="checkbox"/> Chest <input type="checkbox"/> Elbow <input type="checkbox"/> Wrist <input type="checkbox"/> Finger <input type="checkbox"/> Thigh <input type="checkbox"/> Shin <input type="checkbox"/> Foot	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. When was your first menstrual period? _____ When was your last menstrual period? _____ What was the longest time between your periods last year? _____		
Explain "Yes" answers: _____ _____ _____		

I hereby state that, to the best of my knowledge, my answers to the above questions are correct.

Signature of athlete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent/guardian \_\_\_\_\_

**DUPLICATE AS NEEDED**

# Preparticipation Physical Evaluation

**Rule 1, Sec. 14** — In order for a student to be eligible for interscholastic athletics, there must be on file in the Superintendent's or Principal's office a current physician's statement certifying that the student has passed a physical exam, and that in the opinion of the examining physician (M.D. or D.O.) the student is fully able to participate in interscholastic athletics (Grades 7-12). The AHSAA Physicians Certificate (Form 5 Rev. 2018) must be used. **A physical exam will satisfy the requirement for one calendar year through the end of the month from the date of the exam. For example, a physical given on May 5, 2021, will satisfy the requirement through May 31, 2022.**

Student's name \_\_\_\_\_

## Physical Examination

COMPLETE	LIMITED	Height _____ Weight _____ BP ____ / ____ Pulse _____		
		Vision R 20 / ____ L 20 / ____ Corrected: Y N		
			Normal	Abnormal Findings
		Cardiovascular		
		Pulses		
		Heart		
		Lungs		
		Skin		
		E.N.T.		
		Abdominal		
	Genitalia (males)			
	Musculoskeletal			
	Neck			
	Shoulder			
	Elbow			
	Wrist			
	Hand			
	Back			
	Knee			
	Ankle			
Foot				
Other				

Revised 2018

Clearance:

A. Cleared

B. Cleared after completing evaluation/rehabilitation for: \_\_\_\_\_

C. Not cleared for:

Collision

Contact

Noncontact \_\_\_\_\_ Strenuous \_\_\_\_\_ Moderately strenuous \_\_\_\_\_ Nonstrenuous

Due to: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of physician \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of physician \_\_\_\_\_, M.D. or D.O.

(Form must be signed and dated by the attending physician.)