



**2021-2022
Hillcrest High School
Visual Ensemble
Information Packet**

Information Meeting:

A general information meeting will be held for **ALL** students interested in auditioning for the Hillcrest High School Visual Ensemble on **Tuesday, February 9th at 5:30 p.m.** in the Hillcrest High School Theater. This meeting will allow the staff to provide you with information about the clinic, audition process, and expectations for the upcoming year. **Parents are expected to attend.**

*****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 5th**. All money should be turned in before first period 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 2020-2021 band/visual fees must be paid in full in order for students to be eligible to attend clinic.**

Audition Clinic:

Three mandatory clinics will be held before the audition in order to prepare students for the audition. The clinic days are **Tuesday, March 9th through Thursday, March 11th**. 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:

Dance: 4:00 – 5:00 pm (Tuesday – Thursday)
Guard: 5:00 – 6:00 pm (Tuesday – Thursday)
Majorette: 6:00 – 7:00 pm (Tuesday – 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 8th 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 12th, 2021** 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. **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 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 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 13th 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 7, 2021 - \$300 due

May 18, 2021 - \$300 due

June 29, 2021 - \$300 due

August 12, 2021 – remaining balance due

Visual Ensemble Meeting

The first Visual Ensemble Meeting after auditions will be held **Tuesday, April 6th at 5:30 pm**. The first Visual Ensemble payment of \$300 will be due at the April 6th 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 20 & 27**
 - b. **May 4, 11, & 18**
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 15 & 29**
 - b. **July 13**
3. **Band Camp** – Members will be required to attend Band Camp, which will be held at Hillcrest High School.
 - a. **Tentative Dates: July 21 – August 3** (excluding Saturdays and Sundays)
 - b. Leadership members will report earlier. Specific times will be given at a later date.

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



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

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: _____



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

DANCELINE

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

ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Preparticipation Physical Evaluation Form

History

Name _____ Sex _____ Age _____ Date _____
 Address _____ Date of birth _____
 School _____ Phone _____
 Grade _____ 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you ever been dizzy during or after exercise?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you ever had chest pain or discomfort in your chest during or after exercise?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you tire more quickly than your friends during exercise?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you ever had high blood pressure?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you ever been told that you have a heart murmur, high cholesterol, or heart infection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you ever had racing of your heart or skipped heartbeats?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has anyone in your family died of heart problems or a sudden death before age 50?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does anyone in your family have a heart condition?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you ever been knocked out or unconscious?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you ever had a seizure?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<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		
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 (Grade s 7-12). The AHSAA Physicians Certificate (Form 5) 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, 2015, will satisfy the requirement through May 31, 2016.**

Physical Examination

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			

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.



HILLCREST HIGH SCHOOL VISUALS 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 “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

<u>Offense</u>	<u>Demerit Amount</u>
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. Not in proper practice attire (incorrect shirt, shoes, shorts, etc.)	5
11. Not in proper performance attire (uniform, earrings, shoes, etc.)	10
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 2021-2022 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: _____