

**The “Great” James
Madison High School
“Guardians of Troy”**

**FreshOnes
Marching Band**



Majorette Handbook

Revised January 2019

James Madison High School

Marching Band

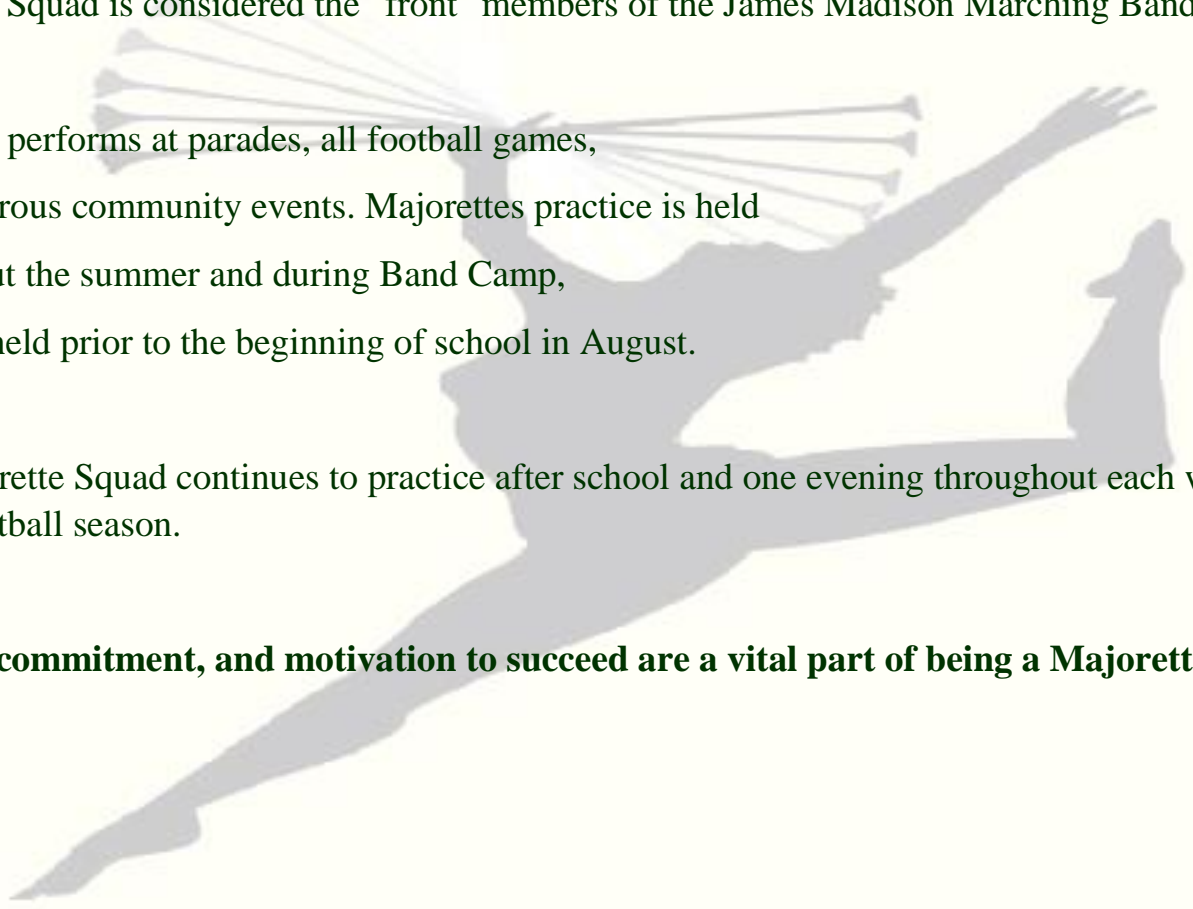
Majorettes

The James Madison Majorette Squad is comprised of twirlers in grades 9 through 12. The Majorette Squad is considered the "front" members of the James Madison Marching Band.

The Band performs at parades, all football games, and numerous community events. Majorettes practice is held throughout the summer and during Band Camp, which is held prior to the beginning of school in August.

The Majorette Squad continues to practice after school and one evening throughout each week of the football season.

****Pride, commitment, and motivation to succeed are a vital part of being a Majorette.****



Majorette Policies and Responsibilities

I. All Majorettes and Alternates must abide by this Majorette Handbook. All Majorettes and Alternates must also abide by the Marching Band Handbook, except for differences described in this handbook (e.g., jewelry, hair, etc.).

- ✓ It shall be the primary responsibility of the Sponsor to handle and effectively manage the Majorette Squad. The Sponsor is directed to interact fully with all members of the Squad in a mature manner. If the Sponsor of the Squad intentionally or without mature judgment, as determined by the Board of School Directors, violates any provision of the constitution, the Building Principal shall recommend the termination of the Sponsor after a fact-finding investigation.
- ✓ A copy of the written policy governing the Majorette Squad shall be posted for public viewing. Posting is to be done prior to tryouts each Spring.
- ✓ Student compliance with the rules and regulations is mandatory. Non-compliance is cause for demerits, suspension, or expulsion from the squad.

II. Alternate Majorettes

- **Alternate Majorettes are required to:**
 - ✓ Follow all the rules and regulations outlined in the Majorette and Band Handbooks.
 - ✓ Attend all practices, rehearsals, and events in which the Majorette Squad participates and performs.
 - ✓ Purchase all necessary items that are required of all Majorettes but must understand that they must meet the eligibility requirements in this Handbook to be able to perform.
 - ✓ The Band Director and Sponsor will monitor Alternates' progress and may choose to promote the Alternate to the main Majorette Squad if and when they show significant improvement.

III. Captain and Co-Captain

- **The Captain and Co-Captain are required to:**
 - ✓ Work with the Sponsor to create routines for halftime shows, pep assemblies, parades, etc.
 - ✓ Demonstrate a strong quality of interpersonal and field leadership.
 - ✓ Assist Sponsor and Band Director in the organization of Band Camp activities and all rehearsals.
 - ✓ Report to their unit all actions taken by the Band Director and Sponsor.
 - ✓ Attend all rehearsals and performances.
 - ✓ Model dedication, leadership, teamwork, collaboration, and mediation skills.
- **The Captain and Co-Captain are expected to:**
 - ✓ Each design a shirt for wear during the school day throughout the football season.
 - ✓ Foster comradery among all Majorettes and Alternates.

IV. Majorettes and Alternate Majorettes

- ✓ The Band season schedule is distributed well in advance to give students plenty of time to make arrangement for attendance. The Majorette practice schedule is also given ahead of time.

V. Attendance

➤ All Majorettes and Alternates are required to:

- ✓ Attend all performances and events, including, but not limited to, football games, band festivals, parades, and other community activities.
- ✓ If a Majorette or Alternate is unable to perform because of injury, the Majorette or Alternate is still required to attend events and sit with the Band and Majorette Squad, abiding by all rules as if still in uniform.
- ✓ Attend all practices, rehearsals, and performances.
- ✓ Arrive at practices prior to the scheduled start time so that practice can begin on time.
- ✓ Attend winter and spring Band concerts to support and assist in any capacity needed (e.g., ushering, baking for bake sale, working at sales tables, etc.).

VI. Absences

- ✓ To be excused from any practice, rehearsal, or performance, Majorettes and Alternates must submit the proper Excuse Request form to the Band Director and/or Sponsor.
- ✓ Practices and Rehearsals—Form must be submitted at least two (2) school days prior to practice/rehearsal.
- ✓ Performances—Form must be submitted at least one (1) week prior to performance.
- ✓ Absences because of work are unexcused.
- ✓ Students who hold jobs are to make provisions to be excused from work for Band and Majorette activities.

VII. Uniforms

- ✓ Majorettes and Alternates are required to wear a uniform to perform at all events (i.e., football games, parades, band festivals, etc.).
- ✓ Winter uniforms are property of the Dallas Independent School District and will be issued to the squad members at the beginning of the season.
- ✓ Girls should not eat or drink food while in uniform (with the exception of snacks provided at football games and band festivals).
- ✓ Squad members are responsible for the upkeep of the uniform and any damage that is a result of their misuse.
- ✓ Squad members will be given information on washing the uniform and should do so before turning it in at the end of the season.
- ✓ Any cost incurred by damage to the uniform will be the financial responsibility of the squad member to whom the uniform was issued.
- ✓ The summer uniform will be purchased by the Majorette or Alternate.
- ✓ Other parts of the uniform may include, but are not limited to boots, tights, leotards, hairpieces, and jewelry.
- ✓ Captain and Co-Captain are permitted to have differences in their appearance, including, but not limited to, uniforms, hairpieces, earrings, etc.

VIII. Hair and Other Accessories

- ✓ Majorettes and Alternates are required to wear their hair up and off of the face and, if possible, in the same hairstyle.
- ✓ All efforts will be made to accommodate different hair lengths, but the hair must be pulled back off of the face.
- ✓ Majorettes and Alternates will be required to wear similar jewelry (e.g., earrings) as part of the performance uniform.
- ✓ If allergies do not permit this, provisions will be made.

- ✓ The Sponsor, Captain, and Co-Captain will decide on the specific and necessary look for each performance, and the Captain will communicate those decisions to the squad members 24 hours prior to performances.
- ✓ These performances include, but are not limited to, football games, band festivals, parades, and pep assemblies.

IX. Majorette Costs

- ✓ Significant start-up costs are required to become a Majorette and Alternate Majorette. (Required purchases will be posted at least 30 days prior to the date of yearly tryouts.)
- ✓ Each subsequent year will also require additional costs for new required items. (Required purchases will be posted at least 30 days prior to the date of yearly tryouts.)

X. Fundraising

- ✓ Many fundraisers are scheduled in conjunction with the Band; however, the Majorettes and Alternates will conduct several fundraising efforts to offset the costs of their required purchases.
- ✓ Money raised through Band and Majorette fundraising efforts can only be used for equipment, items, trips, and activities related to membership in the Band and/ or Majorette Squad (as Majorette or Alternates).

XI. Practices

- ✓ All Majorettes and Alternates are required to attend both Band and Majorette practices.

➤ **Summer Practices**

- ✓ The summer practice schedule will be communicated to the Squad by the end of the school year.
- ✓ All Majorettes and Alternates are required to attend all practices.
- ✓ Family vacations will be considered excused absences; however, absences for vacations cannot be excessive.
- ✓ Squad members will be expected to provide vacation times to the Sponsor at the beginning of the summer practice season.
- ✓ **Attendance at Band Camp is MANDATORY**

➤ **Evening Rehearsals**

- ✓ During football season all Band Members, Majorettes, and Alternates are required to attend rehearsals on Monday – Thursday evenings. Rehearsal times are published on the Marching Band Schedule.

➤ **After school**

- ✓ After school practice sessions for football season will be scheduled by the end of the Band Camp week.
- ✓ All efforts will be made to keep to this schedule, **but adjustments may be necessary.**

➤ **Extra Practices (IF/WHEN NEEDED)**

- ✓ Extra practices may be scheduled, and all Majorettes and Alternates will be required to attend. These practices will include, but are not limited to:
 - Senior Night
 - Band Festivals
 - Parades and other community events
 - Any Majorette or Alternate who has been excused from a specific performance, still may be required to attend the practices prior to that performance because the Squad may be practicing for more than just the excused performance.

XII. Disciplinary Consequences

- ✓ All Majorettes and Alternates are expected to abide by the rules and responsibilities in this Majorette Handbook and the Marching Band Handbook.
- ✓ In addition, all Majorettes and Alternates are expected to abide by the Dallas Independent School District Code of Conduct while representing Dallas Independent School District at events and practices.
- ✓ Any school district disciplinary action put upon a Majorette or Alternate due to school misconduct may affect the Squad Member's eligibility to perform in events and activities.

XIII. Demerit/Merit System

****The purpose of the Demerit/Merit System is to maintain discipline, to promote accountability and reliability, and to uphold fairness for all by setting examples of good behavior, unity, and pride.****

➤ Guidelines

- ✓ Only the Sponsor and/or Band Director can give Demerits/Merits.
- ✓ An accumulation of 15 demerits during the season will result in removal from the Squad.
- ✓ Accumulation of 5 demerits by Captain or Co-Captain will result in forfeit of the leadership position. (The position will remain vacated.)
- ✓ Squad members on probation due to demerits are still required to attend all practices and performance.

➤ Demerit System Consequences

- ✓ 5 demerits—Suspension from performance for one week
- ✓ 10 demerits—Suspension from performance for two weeks
- ✓ 15 demerits—Dismissal from the Squad

➤ Demerit Offenses

- ✓ **The following infractions will result in one (1) demerit per occurrence:**
 - Late to practice (not ready to begin at practice start time)
 - Late to a performance (arrival is beyond designated arrival time)
 - Excessive talking, socializing, etc., during practice when practice is taking place or instructions are being given (Multiple incidences in one practice session can result in more than one demerit.)
 - Failure to meet deadlines (e.g., turning in forms, money, uniforms, paperwork, or other assigned responsibilities)
- ✓ **The following infractions will result in two (2) demerits per occurrence:**
 - Late to practice beyond 10 minutes
 - Leaving practice early without prior approval
 - Leaving performances early without prior approval
 - Wearing of improper attire or failure to wear required attire
 - Wearing jewelry that is not approved at a performance
 - Wearing nail polish while performing
 - Untidy or dirty uniform
 - Chewing gum or eating food at undesignated times (e.g., while in uniform)
 - Disrespectful behavior toward Sponsor, Captain, Co-Captain or any member of the squad.
 - Use of inappropriate language (i.e., foul language, name calling, taunting, etc.)
 - Use of cell phones during practice or performances

- ✓ **The following infractions will result in three (3) demerits per occurrence:**
 - Unexcused absence from practice (no prior notice/approval)
 - Disobeying request or directive of the Sponsor
 - Damaged uniform
 - Lying
- ✓ **The following infractions will result in 5 demerits per occurrence:**
 - Unexcused absence from a performance (no prior notice/approval), including if injured and required to attend
 - In-school/out-of-school suspensions resulting from referrals from faculty
 - Inappropriate posts of any form on social media
- ✓ **The following offenses will result in immediate dismissal from the squad:**
 - Possession and/or use of tobacco products
 - Possession and/or use of alcohol
 - Possession and/or use of illegal drugs
 - Stealing
 - Fighting during school or at a school function

XIV. Merit Credits

- ✓ **Merits may be earned in the following ways:**
 - At the end of a quarter, a Majorette or Alternate will earn one merit credit for every class in which she earns an A. Majorettes and Alternates are responsible for providing documentation (showing the report card) to the Sponsor.
 - A Majorette or Alternate may earn one merit credit for a service to the Squad, which will be determined by the Sponsor and/or Band Director.
 - A Majorette or Alternate may earn ½ merit credit by running two (2) laps around the football field fence.
- ✓ **Any Majorette or Alternate may see the Sponsor to work out creative merit ideas. All merit credits must benefit the Squad.**
- ✓ **Excused Absences will not receive demerits. These include:**
 - Illness with a doctor's excuse
 - Death in the family
 - Academic responsibilities (e.g., missing part of practice for a make-up test or other approved academic reasons)
 - Majorette or Alternate must get academic requirement in writing from appropriate teacher prior to the absence.
 - Sponsor must approve the activity prior to the absence.
 - Demerits will be assigned if prior notice and approval is not given.

Majorette Tryouts

➤ Qualifications and Responsibilities

- ✓ The squad will consist of no more than eighteen (18) Majorettes, which may include two Alternates.

➤ Scholastic Standing

- ✓ Any student wishing to participate in extracurricular activities must maintain a 2.0 grade point average in the report period preceding the activity. The average will be determined by counting all full-credit courses in which the student is enrolled.
- ✓ Eligibility must be verified by the Guidance/Counseling Department in writing three (3) days prior to practicing. Candidate eligibility verification must be submitted to the sponsor by the Guidance/Counseling Department in writing three (3) days prior to the start of tryout practice.
- ✓ All candidates are urged to examine the requirements of the Majorette Handbook and the Marching Band Handbook carefully and completely at the beginning of the training period. If any candidate cannot give full consent to the responsibilities and obligations listed, the candidate should not consider becoming a member of the Majorette Squad.
- ✓ Significant start-up costs are required to become a Majorette. All candidates should take this into consideration before trying out.
- ✓ Each subsequent year will also incur costs for new required items.

XV. Majorette Eligibility

- ✓ Any ninth, tenth, or eleventh grade student who possesses the necessary qualifications may try out for the Majorette Squad.
- ✓ All students must try out each year.
- ✓ All Majorettes must attain a minimum cutoff score, which will be a percentage of the total possible points for the tryout.
- ✓ Minimum scores will be determined by a committee consisting of, but not limited to, Building Principal, Band Director, Majorette Sponsor, and/or Professional Judge(s) on a yearly basis.
- ✓ The maximum number of positions on the Majorette squad is 18.
- ✓ If all 18 positions on the squad are filled by candidates who have attained the minimum score, there will be no Alternates.
- ✓ If fewer than 18 positions are filled by candidates who have attained the minimum score, a maximum of two (2) Alternates may be chosen to fill the positions, which will total no more than 18 for the entire Squad.
 - Candidates who do not attain the minimum score to become a Majorette may be selected as Alternates.
 - Alternates must attain a minimum Alternate cutoff score, which will be a percentage of the total possible points for the tryout.
 - Minimum scores will be determined by a committee consisting of, but not limited to, Building Principal, Band Director, Majorette Sponsor, and/or Professional Judge(s) on a yearly basis.
 - If more than two students attain the Alternate cutoff score or above, the students with the two highest scores will be offered the Alternate positions.
 - If any student declines an offered Alternate position, the student who has attained the next highest score within the cutoff range will be offered the position.
 - Once a candidate has declined the Alternate position, the decision is final, even if an Alternate position is vacant.

XVI. Captain and Co-Captain Eligibility

- ✓ Candidates wishing to try out for Captain/Co-Captain positions must be a Sophomore/Junior when trying out (thus, student will be a Junior/Senior in the following school year).
- ✓ Candidates also must have been on the squad for a minimum of two (2) consecutive years.
- ✓ **No freshman** can be considered for a Captain or Co-Captain position.

XVII. Method of Selection

➤ Recruitment

- ✓ Sponsors have the responsibility to encourage all members of the student body to become a member of the Squad. Sponsors are to continually encourage Squad members to maintain an acceptable academic standing.

➤ Judging

- ✓ The Building Principal with input from the Band Director and Majorette Sponsor are responsible for acquiring impartial, qualified individuals outside of the school organization to judge Majorette tryouts.
- ✓ No selection by judges will be made on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, ancestry, and national origin. No parent or near relative of any eligible candidate shall be a judge.
- ✓ Parents, guardians, and other interested adult citizens are NOT permitted to attend the judging and selection of Majorettes. Any information shall be communicated via media generally available to the school (e.g., school district notification system, email, bulletin boards, and/or school/district publication).

➤ Scoring

- ✓ **In the judging process, selections will be based only on candidates' abilities as established by the following criteria:**
 - Poise/Appearance
 - Basic twirling skills
 - Marching and commands
 - Routine

******Candidates who are Majorettes in the current school year will have any accumulated demerits deducted from their score.******

- ✓ The scores and decisions of the judges are final.
- ✓ Any discussion concerning scores or decisions on who made or did not make the Squad will be accepted from students in person only.
- ✓ Students must make all inquiries face-to-face with the Band Director and/ or Sponsor.
- ✓ The Band Director, Sponsor, and Judges are not permitted to respond to phone calls, text messages, or emails about the scores and/or the final outcome of the Squad. In person appointments may be scheduled.
- ✓ Following the judging process and upon the compilation of the scores, all participants will be informed of their scores by the Majorette Sponsor.
- ✓ The Band Director will preserve the complete list of candidates and their respective scores for one year. The Band Director will notify the High School Principal and/or Superintendent of the scores after the final tabulation.
- ✓ Students who tried out can see the Band Director to view only their own scores. If a parent/guardian would like to view his or her child's score, the parent/guardian must make an appointment to do so during school time.

➤ **Captain and Co-Captain**

- ✓ Captain and Co-Captain candidates will have additional requirements.
- ✓ A Teacher Evaluation must be completed by a teacher of the candidate's choice prior to the tryout date.
- ✓ Candidates must try out for the Majorette Squad.
- ✓ **Candidates will:**
 - Perform an original routine to a song selected by the Band Director and/or Sponsor. (The selected song will be publicly announced and posted at least 30 days prior to the scheduled tryout.)
 - Teach a skill to a provided student.
 - Answer interview questions from judges.

XVIII. Tryout Practice Sessions

- ✓ Before tryouts are held, the Majorette Sponsor shall schedule a minimum of five (5) practice sessions for Majorette candidates. The practice sessions will be advertised via school announcement system(s) to make students, parents, and/or guardians aware of the audition time & date, as well as the tryout practice schedule. The written policy governing the selection of Majorettes will also be available at that time.
- ✓ Tryout dates and procedures will be made according to the demands of the school calendar.
- ✓ All Majorette candidates must attend all scheduled practice sessions to be considered for tryouts. If a candidate is absent from school and cannot attend a practice session, a doctor's excuse is required.
- ✓ During the training period, candidates will be under the leadership of the current Majorettes, the Sponsor, and/or qualified individuals designated by the Sponsor or Band Director. These individuals will assist candidates with the development of fundamental skills in preparation for the Squad auditions.
- ✓ All Majorette candidates will be treated equally and will be given the same opportunities during the time allotted at practice sessions. Every effort will be made to teach all candidates all required skills.
- ✓ No cell phones or other electronic devices are to be active during tryout practice sessions or tryouts. At the discretion of the Sponsor, cell phones may not be used to record the routine. Students are permitted to record only the designated demonstrations.
- ✓ Parents have the option of attending Majorette practice sessions as observers. To minimize and/or eliminate the possibility of any disruption or interference with the work of the Squad Members, Candidates and Instructors, no communication with Squad Members, Candidates, Sponsor, or designated instructors is permitted during the practice sessions. Any observer who breaks this rule will be asked to leave.