Pom Pon and Colorguard
Information Packet for 2026 Tryouts

****The Seneca Valley School District's revised policy for drug testing eliminates being tested for one day tryouts. If a student is selected as a member of the Pom Pon or Colorguard squad they will need to be tested prior to band camp for the 2026-27 school year.*

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

Please read carefully the attached rules, regulations and demerit system for the Marching Band Auxiliary Squads (Colorguard and Pom Pons). Please sign the form, tear off and return to your advisor at the first practice.

Students in grades **8, 9, 10** and **11** are permitted to tryout for the auxiliary squads. The practices will be held in a closed gymnasium. Only the advisors and candidates will be allowed in the gymnasium during practices. **No spectators will be permitted. In addition, no spectators will be permitted in the tryout area.**

If you have questions regarding Pom Pons, please contact either Missy Armstrong at missyjarmstrong@gmail.com or Katie Huttinger at huttingerka@outlook.com. If you have questions regarding Colorguard, please contact Ms. Cramer at cramered@svsd.net.

BAND AUXILIARY RULES AND DEMERIT SYSTEM

It is the responsibility of the advisor to use her good judgment in recording demerits for each auxiliary member.
Demerits may be recorded for poor behavior in connection with school functions not involving band auxiliary units. **A Seneca Valley Band Auxiliary member represents her school in and out of uniform.**

An accumulation of **20 points** will warrant a recommendation to the administration for expulsion from the unit for the entire year.
An accumulation of **15 points** will result in a 3 game suspension.
An accumulation of **10 points** will result in a 1 game suspension.
All demerits are cumulative for the entire year.
All demerits are in addition to school disciplinary actions. For any problem that involves specific school disciplinary action, demerits may be assigned in conjunction with, and according to school district policy.

BEHAVIOR DEMERITS

a.	Possession/under influence of alcohol/drugs in or out of uniform	18
b.	Smoking (possession/act) in or out of uniform	15
c.	Arguing with or showing disrespect to an advisor or chaperone	13
d.	Not following the district transportation policy to and from events	12
e.	Missing any band practice during band camp for an unexcused reason	12
f.	Losing or leaving uniform or equipment (replaced at your expense)	10
g.	Performance at an event with a wrinkled or dirty uniform or boots	5
h.	Missed Event or practice because of Out of School or In-School suspension or detentions (per situation)	10
i.	Unexcused missed game or parade (excused only for illness)	10
j.	Arriving late for parade, event or game	8
k.	Missing an after-school practice, called by the band director or advisor. Work is never an excuse to miss any practice.	5
l.	Missing summer practices - 5 demerits for each**see below	5
m.	Improper language, bus ride misconduct, bad sportsmanship	5
n.	Money turned in late after any fundraiser...per day	5
o.	Wearing of unacceptable jewelry, as determined by the advisor, for a performance. You will not participate plus receive demerits	5
p.	Inappropriate nail polish or make up, as determined by the advisor for a performance.	5
q.	Wearing unsuitable practice clothes	5
r.	Late to practice	3
s.	Not knowing routine, will not participate; plus receive demerits	3
t.	If routine is not improved by next practice	3
u.	Being disrespectful to captains or not listening while they are talking as determined by the advisor	3
v.	Forgetting equipment, you will receive 1 warning, each day after	3
w.	Excessive talking or lack of enthusiasm	2

****Demerits will not be issued for a family vacation in the summer if the advisor is notified two weeks prior to the vacation.**

Rules and Regulations for Pom Pon and Colorguard Members

1. Pom Pon and Colorguard practices will have priority over other school extracurricular activities.

2. Once you are chosen, you are officially a member of the squad, all rules and regulations are then in effect.

3. When you are a member of the band auxiliary units, your first responsibility is to be marching. You are a member of the Seneca Valley Marching Band.

4. A member of the band auxiliary units must be covered by parents' insurance or insurance purchased through the school.

5. A member of the squad must supply the personal items of the uniform such as the boots or black dance shoes, warm-up suits, windbreaker, poms or flag poles, tights and leotard.

6. Dates and times for summer practice will be decided upon by the advisor.

7. Practice will be held twice weekly with the band once school starts. Extra practices may be called by the advisor. There may be extra practices the week of a parade and/or the Butler County Band Festival.

8. All auxiliary units will travel to and from the game using school transportation. A student may leave an event with a parent if proper notification has been given to the advisor. Parent face-to-face contact with the advisor is mandatory for the student's release.

9. **Band camp will be held July 30 - August 13, 2026 from 7:30 AM to 3:15 PM.** Band camp is MANDATORY. Students are not permitted to take vacation or schedule doctor appointments during this time. Students are **not** permitted to leave for lunch. Students must bring a lunch every day.

10. A member of the auxiliary units must attend school (be at school before 10:30 AM) the day of the game/event unless given prior administrative approval.

11. In the case a uniform or equipment is lost or destroyed, the band auxiliary member is responsible for paying for it and will not perform until it is replaced.

12. In order to qualify for a letter, all members must successfully complete the season. A letter may be earned by completing three seasons in the Seneca Valley Marching Band.

13. Any member who is ill and cannot attend a game will notify the advisors prior to reporting time.

14. The demerit system will be in effect for all members of the auxiliary units.

15. The only excuse for absences is death in the family, absences from school, doctor appointment (note required), leaving school early due to illness.

16. If you miss a Thursday practice you may not participate in the scheduled weekend event, but your attendance will be required.

17. If a girl has a minor injury, even with a doctor's excuse, she must be dressed in proper band attire and attend the game. The girl will sit with the squad but not participate in the performance.

Pom Pon Information

The **Pom Pon squad will consist of a maximum of 28 girls and a minimum of 20 girls**, with an average score of **80** points or higher.

If a tie exists for the last position, the points in the Dance/Pom/Kick line category will be totaled and the girl with the highest score will be selected for the squad. If a tie still exists, the total score from the Dance/Pom/ Kick Line category and the Pom Routine (Parade Poms) will be combined to determine the girl selected to the squad.

In order to be eligible for captain you must have participated in an entire preceding fall season of activities.

The Pom Pon squad will have three captains.
The girls with the top 6 (six) tryout scores will choose their own music and choreograph a one minute routine using any prop. (large poms, small poms, hat, cane, boa, etc.) They will then perform it for the squad after they have been asked questions by the advisors. The girls with the top six (6) scores will also create 2-8counts of arm movements that will be taught to the squad at that time. These movements may not consist of anything that old members of the squad many have learned in the past and must be taught within 6 minutes. The advisors will score this part of the tryout. After all of the girls are finished, a secret ballot vote will be held for captain. Each vote will count as one point and will be added to the score from the teaching technique that the advisors gave. The top 3 highest scores will become captain.

Responsibilities of the Pom Pon captains:
You are an extension of the advisors. The advisors make all decisions. Captains will assist the advisors in the choreographing, teaching, and reviewing of the routines. When the advisors cannot attend practice, the captains are responsible for running a productive practice.

In the opinion of the advisors, if these girls do not fulfill their leadership responsibilities, they may be removed from their position after meeting with the advisor, band directors and principal.

Colorguard Information

The **COLORGUARD will consist of a maximum of 28 girls and a minimum of 20 girls**, with an average score of **80** points or higher.

If a tie exists for the last position, the points from the Routine (III) category will be totaled and the girl with the highest score will be selected for the squad. If a tie still exists, the total score from the Routine (III) category and the Basics (II) category will be combined to determine the girl selected to the squad.

NATIONAL LINE will consist of members within the color guard team. The national line will present the banner, American Flag, and guard(s) at the front of the marching band for all PARADE events throughout the year (including the annual band trip). During all other marching band performances (half-time/field shows), they will perform as a part of the color guard. Members on the team may volunteer for national line. Otherwise, there will be secondary parade audition(s) held to determine who will fulfill this responsibility. Original tryout scores may also determine National Line.

In order to be eligible for captain you must have been on the squad for 2 years or be a senior with at least one previous year on the squad..

The COLORGUARD will have three captains.
Eligible squad members who are interested in being a captain will choose their own music and choreograph a one minute routine using flag(s) or combinations of flag/rifle. They will then perform it for the squad after they have been asked questions by the advisors. The prospective captains will also create 24 counts of flag work that will be taught to the squad at that time. These movements may not consist of anything that old members of the squad may have learned in the past and must be taught within 6mins. The advisors will score this part of the tryout. After all of the girls are finished, a secret ballot vote will be held for captain. Each vote will count as a point and will be added to the score from the teaching technique the advisors gave. The top 3 highest scores will become captain.

Responsibilities of the COLORGUARD captains:
You are an extension of the advisors. The advisors make all decisions. Captains will assist the advisors in the choreographing, teaching, and reviewing of the routines. When the advisors cannot attend practice, the captains are responsible for running a productive practice.

In the opinion of the advisors, if these girls do not fulfill their leadership responsibilities, they may be removed from their position after meeting with the advisor, band directors and principal.

Tryouts

Pom Pon Practices

Wednesday, April 29	5:30 – 7:30 PM
Thursday, April 30	5:30 – 7:30 PM
Friday, May 1	5:30 – 7:30 PM

Pom Pon Tryouts

Saturday, May 2 beginning at 8:00 AM

Students can leave when their tryout is complete.

Practices and tryouts are held in the IHS Auxiliary Gym

Colorguard Practices

Tuesday, April 28	5:00 – 7:00 PM
Wednesday, April 29	5:00 – 7:00 PM
Thursday, April 30	5:00 – 7:00 PM
Friday, May 1	5:00 - 7:00 PM

(Plan to attend all, as different skills are taught at each)

Colorguard Tryouts

Saturday, May 2 beginning at 8:00 AM

Students can leave when their tryout is complete.

Practices are held in the Intermediate High School Gym.
Tryouts are held in the Senior High School Gym.

Day of Tryouts

1. **WHAT TO WEAR:** A neat shorts outfit; white shirt with short sleeves tucked into shorts. (NO CROP TOPS); dark shorts, not too short; clean tennis shoes; white ankle socks.

2. Do not wear anything with "Colorguard or “Pom Pon" on it -- it could work against you.

3 Jewelry should **NOT** be worn and excessive makeup does not impress judges.

4. Hair should be kept away from your face.

5. SOME ADVICE: Smile! Maintain eye contact with all the judges; Be enthusiastic, but natural; Maintain good posture.

Guidelines for Pom Pon and Colorguard Tryouts

1. Number will identify all contestants only.

2. Scoring will be by an independent group selected by the advisors.

3. The judges will score the contestant and place the score sheet in each judge's envelope.

4. Scoring will be done in ink and corrections will be initialed by the judge.

5. The candidates are to visit the Marching Band website, **svband.net** to find out the results of the tryouts. The number of the candidate making the squad will be listed.

6. An individual's score will be shared with that contestant upon request **ONLY** if they **did not** make the squad. Scores **will not** be given over the telephone.

7. The advisors will be permitted to give commands and give directions during tryouts.

8. **Five (5) points will be added to each girl’s score for every year of prior membership in good standing on that squad. These points will not be used in determining Captain.** If the candidate does not satisfactorily complete the season, the points will not be awarded for that year.

New Pom Pon Squad Information

(For those girls who make the squad)

Summer practices will be held every Monday and Wednesday throughout the summer. These practices are vital preparation for the fall's activities. Band Camp will take place two weeks prior to the start of school. 100% **Attendance is mandatory**.

The fall season ends after the Christmas parade in Zelienople.

Girls choosing to attend the band trip will begin practices in March or April. The band directors will give out schedules. These practices must have priority over other extra-curricular activities. The band trip will take place in April or May.

All girls will be tested by the advisors on the parade routine. If a girl does not pass, she will be retested. All girls will also be tested on the Feature kick line during the 2nd week of band camp. If a girl does not pass this test and make the kick line, they can retest halfway through the football season. At any time, the advisors have the authority to change or remove the kick line if it is not performed to the advisors' expectations or becomes unsafe for the girls.

Listed below are articles that must be purchased for **Pom Pons**:

$40.00	White boots
$40.00	Parade poms
$30.00	Practice poms
$35.00	Large Bag
$16.00	Tights
$15.00	Leotard (worn under uniform)
$25.00	Uniform cleaning deposit
$25.00	Booster Fee
$77.00	Warm-up suit
$13.00	White T-shirt
$316.00	**Approximate Total**

Listed below are articles that are optional that you may purchase:

$135.00	Seneca Valley Band Jacket (varsity wool jacket)
$45.00	Windbreaker
	***Misc. clothing items

New Colorguard Squad Information

(For those girls who make the squad)

Summer practices will be held every Tuesday and Thursday evening throughout the summer. There will be a "guard camp" for a few days at the very end of July. These practices are vital preparation for the fall activities. Band Camp will take place two weeks prior to the start of school. **100% Attendance is mandatory**

The fall season ends after the Christmas parade in Zelienople.

Members who choose to attend the band trip will begin practices in March or April. The band directors will give out schedules. These practices must have priority over other extra-curricular activities. The band trip will take place in April or May.

Everyone will be tested by the advisors on the parade routine. Testing will help to determine National Line. Everyone will also be tested prior to and during band camp. If a member does not pass the band camp test, they will be blocked into the halftime show only after they have shown correct technique and consistency in routines. At any time, the advisors have the authority to change or remove routines or individuals if performance is not to the advisors' expectations or becomes unsafe.

Listed below are articles that must be purchased for **Colorguard:**

$15.00 Shirt/appropriate bra that cannot be seen when in uniform
$25.00 Uniform cleaning deposit
$25.00 Booster Fee
$44.00 Wind suit jacket
$36.00 Wind suit pants
$20.00 Colorguard T-shirt
$35.00 Duffle bag
$45.00 Black Colorguard uniform shoes
$25.00 Scrunchies
$270.00 Approximate Total

Listed below are articles that are **optional** that you may purchase:

$135.00 Seneca Valley Band Jacket
$10.00 Fun Colorguard t-shirt
$23.00 Colorguard sweatshirt (hoodie)
$17.00 Gloves
$50.00 Flag and Pole
$40.00 Rifle

Seneca Valley Colorguard
Score Sheet

Scoring: 5-excellent 4-good 3-average 2-fair 1-poor

Participant number: _____ Judge number: _____

I. Marching (15)

a.	Knowledge of commands:	1	2	3	4	5
b.	Steps off on correct foot:	1	2	3	4	5
c.	Marches/spins on tempo:	1	2	3	4	5

Total: _____/15

II. Basics (25)

a.	Right drop spins:	1	2	3	4	5
b.	Left drop spins:	1	2	3	4	5
c.	Carves:	1	2	3	4	5
d.	Silk toss:	1	2	3	4	5
e.	Parallel toss:	1	2	3	4	5

Total: _____/25

III. Routine (40)

a.	Demonstrates knowledge of sequence	1	2	3	4	5
b.	Transitions between moves smoothly:	1	2	3	4	5
c.	Demonstrates awareness of body underneath equipment/technique/precision:	1	2	3	4	5
d.	Remains on tempo:	1	2	3	4	5

(Multiply by 2) **Total:_____/40**

IV. Performance (20)

a.	Displays confidence/coordination:	1	2	3	4	5
b.	Maintains smile:	1	2	3	4	5
c.	Maintains posture:	1	2	3	4	5
d.	Neatness/attire:	1	2	3	4	5

Total: _____/20

GRAND TOTAL: _____ /100

Seneca Valley Pom Pon – Score Sheet

Scoring: 5-excellent 4-good 3-average 2-fair 1-poor

Contestant number: _____ Judge number & Initials: _____

I.	**Overall**						
	a. Neatness/Appropriate Attire	1	2	3	4	5	
	b. Smile	1	2	3	4	5	
	c. Posture	1	2	3	4	5	
	d. Showmanship	1	2	3	4	5	
					Total:	**_____**	**/20**
II.	**Marching**						
	a. Knowledge of commands	1	2	3	4	5	
	b. Steps off/marches on correct foot	1	2	3	4	5	
	c. Precision of poms	1	2	3	4	5	
					Total:	**_____**	**/15**
III.	**Flexibility**						
	a. Straight Kicks (waist & high)	1	2	3	4	5	
	b. Side kicks	1	2	3	4	5	
	c. Fan Kicks	1	2	3	4	5	
	d. Hitch Kicks	1	2	3	4	5	
	e. Right Split	1	2	3	4	5	
	f. Left Split	1	2	3	4	5	
					Total:	**_____**	**/30**
IV.	**Pom Routine with Kick Line**						
	a. Precision of poms	1	2	3	4	5	
	b. Kick Line precision/rhythm/strength	1	2	3	4	5	
	c. Technique (pointed toes, posture)	1	2	3	4	5	
	d. Knowledge/memory of routine	1	2	3	4	5	
	e. Overall dance ability	1	2	3	4	5	
					Total:	**_____**	**/25**
V.	**Parade Routine**						
	a. Precision of poms (rhythm/arm strength)	1	2	3	4	5	
	b. Knowledge/memory of routine	1	2	3	4	5	
					Total:	**_____**	**/10**

GRAND TOTAL: _____ /100

Permission Form for the Seneca Valley Band Auxiliary Units

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN AT THE FIRST PRACTICE
Please circle the squad you are trying out for.

_____ has my permission to tryout for the **Pom Pon or Colorguard** squad. I realize if she makes a squad, she will have certain responsibilities. She will have to participate in all football games, the pie festival, the band festival, all parades (including homecoming), and attend band camp at Seneca Valley two weeks prior to the opening of the school year. She will also have the obligation to be at summer practices.

There are many expenses involved with the band auxiliary units. She will have to purchase uniform accessories, such as boots, warm-up suit, tights, bag, etc. Please check the information packet for estimated costs for each group. If a uniform or any of her equipment is lost or damaged, she will be responsible for paying for it.

Since my daughter will be involved with strenuous activities, I am aware of the possibility of physical injury. She must be covered by a medical insurance program.

My daughter is in good physical condition, and I cannot foresee any physical deterrent to her fully participating with the band auxiliary units.

In the event of injury, I hereby waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages against the Seneca Valley School District and advisors.

I have carefully read and understand the rules and regulations and demerit system used for the band auxiliary units at Seneca Valley High School. Furthermore, my daughter and I agree to accept and adhere to all the rules and regulations.

I understand that the Pom Pon and Colorguard squads are student organizations run by adult advisors. The advisors have the authority to use their judgment in running the squads. I, as well as my daughter, will treat the advisors with respect.

_____ _____
(STUDENT SIGNATURE) (PARENT'S SIGNATURE)

_____ _____
(PRESENT GRADE) (DATE)

_____ _____
(NAME OF INSURANCE CARRIER) (INSURANCE GROUP NUMBER)

*****The school board has enacted a $50/student fee for ALL participants of any sport or activity (Payment will be due to SV <u>after</u> tryouts if students qualify for the squad).**