Winter Guard Membership Contract

I. **All guidelines that are set forth in the Band policy statement will apply to Winter Guard.**

II. **No talking during rehearsals.** If you have a question, you will need to raise your hand. Follow standard class rules. Use general politeness. Cell phones are not allowed during rehearsal. If they go off during rehearsal, they will be turned into the director.

III. **Fees:** The fee for winter guard is $40, which is used to supplement the overall cost of providing the winter guard program. Students are will be responsible for purchasing their own shoes, undergarments, make up, hair accessories, etc. A t-shirt will be available for purchase for those that are interested. There also will be a hotel cost for the regional.

IV. **Equipment**: The school will provide all equipment (if a student wants their own rifle, they should purchase this on their own). Students must complete an equipment user agreement prior to using any school equipment and all guidelines must be observed or privileges will be revoked. Personal equipment may not be left at school. If you are not comfortable with this arrangement, please do not participate in the activity.

V. **A.** No absence is excused unless **Mr. Finger** approves the request.

B. **Absence process**

1. Turn in a "Request for Absence" form and turn it into Mr. Finger. The appropriate staff member needs to sign off prior to turning it in.
2. Leaving messages or phone calls should be done only in an emergency. Upon return, you will need to contact Mr. Finger and the staff. Otherwise, it will not be excused.
3. Any notification the day of a rehearsal will be unexcused unless it is determined to be an emergency.
4. No contact = Unexcused
5. Mr. Finger is the deciding factor.
6. Every situation is different and will have no bearing on other situations.
7. Illnesses, while obviously being excusable, may have to be addressed if excessive for the good of the overall show.
8. We will be keeping attendance.
9. If school is cancelled due to weather, check the activity line to see if practice is cancelled.

C. **Consequences for an unexcused absence**

1. Practice
   a. First offense = After school work
   b. Second offense = One week attended suspension from guard activities
   c. Third offense = Dismissal from the guard
2. Performance = Dismissal from guard

VI. **Rehearsal Times:** Rehearsals should always start at the precise time given. All set up and tear down needs to occur before and after these times. If everyone participates, this should not take much time.

VII. **Communication:** It is inappropriate for students to have instructors cell phone numbers. Please don't use that method to communicate. Students and instructors should not engage in any type of SOCIAL media. The band program does utilize Twitter for professional communication and students are encouraged to sign up for updates and reminders. There also is a Nixa bands Facebook fan page.

VIII. **Eligibility:** Please refer to the eligibility criteria for membership in the band program. If a student becomes "benched" due to grades, they will be removed from the performance ensemble. Students who are wind players are also expected to excel (not digress) on their instruments and will be removed if guard membership affects their primary band responsibilities.

IX. **Effort and Attitude:** Your effort and attitude will be evaluated at all times, whether you are in rehearsal or not. If at any time the staff feels that you are not conducting yourself in a manner that positively represents the Nixa Band program, you will immediately be dismissed from the guard and asked not to audition the following year. There will be a zero tolerance in regards to this issue.

X. **Closed Rehearsals:** To ensure that the instructors and guard members are able to stay focused on the task of rehearsals, the winter guard rehearsals are closed. We will have open rehearsals that will be announced in advance so that parents and friends can attend.

Please sign below and return with your fee no later than November 30th.

I have read the above winter guard policy and understand all that is expected. I agree to abide by any action that the instructors feel is required to ensure the quality of the Nixa Band program.

Ensemble Member	**Date**	**Parent**	**Date**

The following items have been discussed. Participation in the guard is contingent upon the agreement to the following…

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Guard Member **Date** **Parent** **Date**