



JULIE BUNKLEY

Julie Bunkley has been involved in the color guard activity for over 40 years. Originally from Union, MO, she attended Union High School where she marched on the rifle line during the fall and winter seasons. Union had a very active and competitive winter guard program and was one of the first high school programs in Missouri to compete in WGI from 1982-1984. It was at this time that Julie found her passion for the color guard activity.

After high school, Julie was a member of the Southeast Missouri State University Golden Eagles, where she served as Captain and Choreographer for the color guard. In 1985, Julie began teaching as a rifle instructor with Marching Auxiliaries out of Dallas, TX. The following year, she began designing for and instructing many groups in Missouri, with her longest teaching roles at Poplar Bluff HS and Washington HS.

Julie started the winter guard program at Poplar Bluff in the early 1990's, taking them to compete at the few contests around the state. However, in 1994, the Mid-Continent Color Guard Association Circuit was formed. Julie joined the circuit with Poplar Bluff, competing throughout the season and at the first MCCGA Circuit Championships.

Moving to Washington in the fall of 1994, Julie spent the next 24 years at the Guard Director at Washington High School. During her time as Director, the fall color guard

excelled, receiving Outstanding Color Guard awards at numerous marching band competitions. In 2001, Julie started the winter guard program at Washington High School. Over the next 18 seasons, the WHS winter guard was a WGI 3-time Scholastic A World Championships Finalist, a WGI Scholastic Open World Championships Finalist, and 6 time SA semi-finalist. In MCCGA, the WHS winter guard accomplished nine gold medals covering Regional A, Scholastic A and Open Classes, a 2-time SA silver medalist, and a 6-time SA and SO bronze medalist. Julie was also an A Class Representative at the 2016 WGI Advisory Board meeting in Las Vegas.

Currently, Julie serves on the Mid-Continent Color Guard Association Extended Board as the Eastern Regional Communication Chair. She is also on the Board of Directors for La Voute Performance Ensemble in St. Louis. And she continues to work in the color guard field as a consultant, designer, and judge.

After retiring as an elementary teacher from the Washington School District in 2019, Julie lives in Washington with her husband Troy. They have three sons- Clayton, Cameron, and Colton. With the support and encouragement of Troy and “the three C’s”, Julie has been able to share her love and passion for the activity with hundreds of students over the last four decades. And for this, she is forever thankful and blessed.



