2015-2016 Drum Major Audition Information

*Auditions held after school the week of April 27-May 1, 2015*

**Role and Responsibilities of a Drum Major**
The drum major is the leader of the marching band during rehearsals and in performance. His/her job is to carry-out the instructions of the band director and other instructional staff regarding what needs to be done with the band.

Some examples of what the drum major does include:
- Getting the band out to the rehearsal area, into the proper formation and ready to begin rehearsal.
- Taking the band through warm-up exercises
- Leading the band through practice runs
- Helping rehearsals run smoothly and productively
- Leading the band in performance
- Adding to the overall showmanship of the band during performance with their own performance as the drum major
- Setting the standard for discipline, bearing, and conduct for the members of the band to follow
- Assisting in teaching marching to other members of the band
- Conducting Pep tunes at the behest of the band director at football games
- Leading the band in parade formation by marching in front of the first rank of instrumentalists.
- Signaling percussion section to roll-off to play during a parade
- Acting as the band’s representative at award ceremonies and special functions

**Characteristics of a Successful Drum Major**
Effective drum majors have a number of things in common:
- They have a good understanding of music
- They are skilled as a field conductor
- They have developed a high level of skill with a drum major baton or mace
- They have exceptional marching technique
- Their vocal commands are loud and easily understood
- They are highly responsible and reliable
- They are dedicated to having the band succeed
- They work well with both the band director and the membership of the band
- They know how to teach and assist other members of the band
- They have the ability to inspire the band in performance

**Term of Service**
Drum Majors are selected for one school year. A former drum major must tryout to earn his/her position each year.

**Leadership Council**
The Drum Major(s) are automatically a member of the Marching Band Leadership Council. All members of the council are already part of the Executive Committee. In order to engage and provide leadership opportunities for as many students as possible, the Drum Major(s) are not eligible for another position on the student leadership council.

**Replacement**
If the director feels that any drum major is not performing his/her job at the level required for the best interests of the band, he/she may be pulled from the job and replaced by another drum major. A replacement drum major may be selected depending on the time of season.
Selection Process
Any member of the band in 9th, 10th, or 11th grade may tryout to become the drum major for the following year. Tryouts will be held on a pre-announced date and all drum major candidates are evaluated by a qualified panel selected by the band director.

The panel may select one, two, or three persons to be the drum majors for the season, depending on the size of the group and the needs of the field show. A regular-uniformed assistant drum major may be selected to assist in conducting a small portion of the show if the need is dictated by the drill design.

Uniform
The drum major(s) will wear a school-provided drum major uniform for all events. Drum majors will also use a mace. The student will have the option to purchase his/her own mace or use one provided by the school.

Auditions
A panel of judges selected by and including the band director will witness and score each audition. Students are required to meet minimum requirements in each section of the audition to be considered for selection as a drum major. Should a tie result between two individuals for one of the potential two or three positions, a second audition sequence will be held as a runoff.

There are 4 parts to the audition:
- Commands
- Marching and maneuvering skill
- Conducting
- Personal interview
Commands

Students will be asked to give commands selected from the following list:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MOVING/STATIONARY</th>
<th>COMMAND</th>
<th>PRONUNCIATION</th>
<th>CADENCE COUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Detail to the ready</td>
<td>&quot;Dee-tail to the red-ee&quot;</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Detail Attention</td>
<td>&quot;Dee-tail, ah-ten-hut&quot; (one!)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Detail Parade Rest</td>
<td>&quot;Dee-tail, pah-rade- hrest&quot;</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Mark time march</td>
<td>&quot;Marktime, march&quot; (and)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Mark time march and left,</td>
<td>&quot;Marktime, march (and) left,, left,, left-right-left, left,, left-right-left...&quot;</td>
<td>4+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Band Horns up</td>
<td>&quot;Band, hornz up&quot;(up)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Band Horns down</td>
<td>&quot;Band, hornz down&quot;(down)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Forward march</td>
<td>&quot;Foh-ward, march&quot; (and)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Backwards march</td>
<td>&quot;Back-wardz, march&quot; (and)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Left flank march</td>
<td>&quot;Lehft-flank, march&quot; (and)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Right flank March</td>
<td>&quot;Hright-flank, march&quot;(and)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Left slide march</td>
<td>&quot;Lehft-slide, march&quot; (and)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Right slide march</td>
<td>&quot;Hright-slide, march&quot; (and)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Band halt</td>
<td>&quot;A-bout halt&quot; (1,2)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>About face</td>
<td>&quot;A-bout face&quot; (point-pivot-together)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Left face</td>
<td>&quot;Lehft face&quot; (pivot together)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Right face</td>
<td>&quot;Hright face&quot; (pivot together)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Dress center dress</td>
<td>&quot;Dress-centr, dress&quot; (snap!)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Dress left dress</td>
<td>&quot;Dress-lehft, dress&quot; (snap!)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Dress right dress</td>
<td>&quot;Dress-hright, dress&quot; (snap!)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Ready front</td>
<td>&quot;Red-ee, front&quot; (huhl)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All commands should be spoken in a broad, full, commanding voice. Any weakness or quavering in the tone of the voice detracts from the potency of the command and will undoubtedly lead to an indistinctive following of the command by the group. Student helpers and other drum major candidates will comprise a small group that will follow the given commands. When a drum major candidate is not giving commands in this section of the tryout, he or she will be part of the small group.

Marching and Maneuvering Skill

Each drum major candidate must demonstrate skill in marching and maneuvering as part of the role as a drum major is to teach others to properly march. Candidates will be judged on the following criteria:

- Excellence in maintaining rock solid posture and poise at all times
- Crisp execution of moving commands
- Proper recognition of commands
- Proper sized steps in all maneuvering components
- Maintaining field position for all facings (no drifting)

Candidates will be judged on this component while another person is giving commands.
**Conducting**
A drum major must exhibit competency in conducting. Even if the candidate excels beyond all others in every other area of the tryout, the person who conducts the best will possess the best chance of becoming drum major. Conducting is about demanding attention from those you are leading. A good conductor must not only keep a steady tempo, but also use expression through the face, hands, and body, and provide cues for entrances, cutoffs, dynamic and style changes, etc.

Each candidate will conduct two pieces provided by the band director. A practice CD will be provided to take home and work with. Each tune will be played at the tryout and the drum major candidate will conduct as if he/she were conducting a group. Judges will observe all the above components as criteria for a score. Be creative in cuing (just imagine where the instrument groups are and cue them-- it does not matter in which direction).

**Personal Interview**
Each candidate will be asked a series of questions about drum majoring from the panel. Questions may include such topics as attitude, work ethic, dealing with bad situations, loss of focus, reacting to successful and disappointing events, communication, support of the band director and staff, etc.

**Judging**
A composite score will be calculated by each person on the panel and the totals will be added and then averaged with the other judge's scores into a final score. These scores will not be made public. A discussion will take place to insure that everyone is comfortable with the scores as they have worked out. The top candidate(s) will be announced as early as the following day or at a suitable time as determined by Mr. Howell.

**IMPORTANT NOTE**
All audition results are final, not subject to debate, not reviewable, and- under no circumstances- will the details of the decisions made be discussed publicly. Make sure you are prepared for any outcome and possess the wisdom and maturity to accept the decisions made.