

**DRUM MAJOR AUDITION INFORMATION**

If you are interested in the challenge of being the leader of our band, auditions are soon to be held for the position of DRUM MAJOR. Drum Major audition videos will be due on May 8 for the following school year. The returning drum major can assist in your instruction.

The requirements for the Drum Major Audition include (Items #2-4 will be submitted via one video - PLEASE contact Mr. Rebarchak if you are unable to make a video with your phone or computer):

1. Completion of the candidate application.
2. Demonstrate the whistle and verbal commands.
3. Demonstrate the ability to keep the following tempi (clap/snap each for 30 seconds)
  - 96 beats/minute (8 beats/5 seconds)
  - 120 beats/minute (10 beats/5 seconds)
  - 144 beats/minute (12 beats/5 seconds)
4. Conduct the theme from Game of Thrones (from the 2019 Field Show) with the following YouTube recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4faQXqMjgUU>
  - Mr. Rebarchak is available for individual help on your conducting skills. Please email him to set up a time

***THIS CHALLENGING ACTIVITY IS NOT FOR EVERYONE. IT IS ONLY FOR THOSE STUDENTS THAT WANT TO BE A LEADER. There will only be 1 Drum Major chosen, or a Head Drum Major and Assistant Drum Major based on the decision of the audition committee.***

I have listed many of the things that will be expected of you if you are selected as a Drum Major for the Bellefonte Area High School Marching Band. Please read over this information. You must understand and agree to these expectations.

1. As a Drum Major/Captain, it is expected that you will be able to attend everything that our Marching Band does. You must report at least 20 minutes early and assist the instructional staff in preparing for rehearsals or performances. You should also plan to stay late for meetings as deemed necessary by the director. Be On Time is to Be Late.
2. As our leader, your behavior when on duty will be above reproach. It is expected that you will give 100% cooperation to the instructional staff. Leaders will never disagree with one another or with the instructional staff in rehearsal or in performance. Your opportunity for disagreement and suggestions are listed under #4 and #5.
3. You will be expected to carry out the instructions of the director as given. It is extremely important that the appearance of unity exists at all times. We will function more efficiently and professionally, and the band will reflect this if you make this a priority.
4. You enjoy a special role in the way our band is run. Following each rehearsal, prior to each rehearsal, or in private at our convenience, you can meet with the director and instructional staff, and all viewpoints will be aired. This will be your special opportunity to present your opinion. You will be expected to provide input in the decisions of the staff. Your ideas and suggestions will very often be carried out after all points of discussion are considered. Following a decision, you must again work with the staff as one unit. It is important that we do not disagree in public. It should be apparent to you that personality conflicts and moodiness have no place in this position of leadership.

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5. Quite often the instructional staff will welcome your suggestions or new ideas. Many of the successful ideas over the years have come from student input! You should do your best to help us be the best. Do not be afraid to make a suggestion at the appropriate moment. Keep in mind the middle of a rehearsal is not always the best time for suggestions.
6. You will need to be understanding and compassionate with your fellow students. Occasionally, when things are not going their best, you could suffer the brunt of undeserved criticism. Remember that in the most stressful situations we do not always say or do the most thoughtful things! Learn early to be flexible, and do not take criticism personally.
7. Leaders sometimes must separate themselves from their friends. Sometimes you must do what is right for the band, but maybe not the best things for your buddies. It may not be the easiest thing to do to speak sternly to your friends, but you must be strong. Do what it takes to be the best leader. Only the few have the opportunity to do what you do.
8. You are a guide for the entire band to look up to. Be the best, and the band will work hard to be their best. Lead by example and always keep your expectations high. Some of the best leadership occurs without speaking.
9. Leaders anticipate the needs of the director.
  - When papers need to be distributed, don't wait to be asked.
  - When the group needs to line up and do it again, jump in and get them motivated.
  - When the students need assistance improving their performance, be willing to assist.
  - When the group needs a positive boost, do it.
  - Watch out for the rookies, they often need a friend or a positive word to help them adjust to these new experiences.
  - Don't be afraid to ask, "What needs to be done?"

Finally, always say "Hello!" to the Director and the Instructors! A positive attitude can do so many great things! Be a friend.

I congratulate you on your interest in making our band better by considering being drum major. You have already started on the leadership journey just by coming in for an application. Please fill out the enclosed application. Answer all questions thoroughly and honestly. Return the completed application to Mr. Rebarchak on March 30, you will then audition on March 31 (conducting will take place during Concert Band, everything else will be after school starting at 3:30). Thank you and **Good Luck** on your audition! Let's have a great season.

**Bellefonte Area High School Marching Band**

**Drum Major Application**

Name\_\_\_\_\_

*Please use the back of this application and additional sheets of paper if necessary.*

Number of years you have been involved with the high school program\_\_\_\_\_

Please tell me why you should be considered for this position? (list your qualifications, experiences, areas of expertise)

Why do you want to be a leader?

What contributions could you make to the group by serving in this position?

What, in your opinion, are the main responsibilities of the drum major?

What would you suggest changing in the band if you were in charge?

What can we do to promote good comradeship and morale between the different sections and age levels of the whole Marching Band?

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Explain your understanding of band front's contribution to our field show performance and overall band community.

What can we do about promoting good relationships between the Band/Raider Nation and general student body?

What do you perceive to be the strengths and weaknesses of our band?

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

### Checklist:

- Are you prepared to take on the responsibilities required
- of the position you are applying for? \_\_\_\_\_
- Are you prepared to give up your time to help others? \_\_\_\_\_
- Are you prepared to arrive early and stay late? \_\_\_\_\_
- Are you prepared to do the little things that nobody likes to do without being asked? \_\_\_\_\_
- Are you prepared to clean-up garbage? \_\_\_\_\_
- Are you prepared to smile at all times? \_\_\_\_\_
- Are you willing to accept that what you do, say, behave, act, feel has an impact on the others around you? \_\_\_\_\_
- Are you willing to accept that probably no one will thank you for your efforts? \_\_\_\_\_

**Bellefonte Area High School Marching Band**

*This is a sample of what you will be judged on*

**DRUM MAJOR AUDITION SHEET**

**Candidate Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Written essay Application** \_\_\_\_\_

Factors to be considered in the essay

Pride and Dedication

Confidence / Leadership Potential

Knowledge of the Marching Band

Creative Ideas

(30 points)

\_\_\_\_\_

**WHISTLE and VERBAL COMMANDS** \_\_\_\_\_

Clarity of Whistle commands	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Projection	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Clarity of Verbal commands	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Projection	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Accuracy	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

**CONDUCTING** \_\_\_\_\_

Clearness of Pattern	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Style, projection, placement of beats etc.	
Accuracy	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Pulse, tempo, beats, interpretation etc.	
Confidence / Posture	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Leadership potential etc.	
Cues, Dynamics, cut-offs and releases, etc.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Total Score \_\_\_\_\_

## **Bellefonte Area High School Marching Band**

Here are the Verbal and Whistle commands that we use on the street and on the field. You will be responsible for knowing these at the audition. You may keep this sheet for reference.

### **Verbal and Whistle commands on the street:**

- Band Parade rest....(band goes to parade rest)
- Whistle 1 long, 2 short (brings the band to attention)
- Dress right dress (in rhythm)
- Ready Front (in rhythm)
- 4 whistles (in rhythm) to move

### **To stop the band:**

- 2 short whistles with a rest in between (beat 1, rest. beat 2, blow beat 3) to stop the bands movement, they go to a mark time
- 1 long 3 short (in rhythm) to stop the band
- Parade rest
- At Ease

### **Verbal Commands on the field (and corresponding rhythms used with the commands):**

- Band Parade rest
- Band...A-ten Hut! (Band: Hut)
- Mark Time, Mark!
- Band Horns Up! (Band: And Lock)
- Forward March (Band: And Move)
- Backwards March (Band: Shift Step)
- Forward March (Band: Shift Step)
- Band Horns Down! (Band: And Drop)