

# **Hackettstown High School Marching Band**

## **Drum Major Auditions and Section Leader Interviews Information**

### **2019 Season – June 3, 2019**

Drum major/Section Leader auditions will be held Monday, June 3rd from 3:00-5:30 pm. Sign ups will be posted in the month of May. Please be on time for your time. The audition for drum major will consist of marching, conducting, and giving vocal commands. There will be interviews for both drum major and section leaders.

Before you are allowed to audition, each student must have turned in their application, essay and questionnaire, no later than May 28th to Mr. Freeman.

#### **Eligibility**

- Be enrolled in High School Band or Wind Ensemble
- Be in 10th-12th grade for the upcoming school year
- Have at least one year marching experience
- Be academically eligible and maintain a B average GPA
- Provide two teacher recommendations (no longer than a paragraph)
- Submit application, questionnaire and essay on time

#### **Audition Process:**

- All facets of marching, including but not limited to marking time, roll step, backwards marching, excellent body carriage, and placements
- Conducting (A recording will be provided for the applicant to practice with and conduct to for tryouts. Applicants must demonstrate the ability to keep accurate time, and use a beat pattern that can be seen and understood.):
  - A basic 2/4, 3/4 and 4/4 pattern
  - Tempo tracking (keeping time without a metronome)
  - How to cue entrances and conduct dynamics
  - Conduct the 2019 Marching Band opener and Star Spangled Banner
- Vocal commands, including but not limited to: attention, parade rest, mark time, and halt. Voice projection and clarity are important factors.
- Complete an interview process

The chosen Drum Major is required to attend a leadership camp over the summer. The HHS Band Boosters will cover the cost of the camp. The Drum Major will be responsible for transportation.

To learn more about Drum Major Academy: <http://www.drummajor.org/>

**The Role of the Drum Major:** the most visible position in the marching band is that of drum major. This person is the leader on the street. The drum major exemplifies the spirit, dignity, and bearing of the entire band, and therefore should possess these qualities to the highest degree.

**Duties of the Drum Major include but are not limited to:**

**A. Rehearsals**

1. Consults with the Director prior to each rehearsal for instructions concerning the rehearsal plan.
2. Leads the band through the warm up routine which may include band warm ups, stretches or basics.
3. Assists the Director in running rehearsal.
4. Helps individual band members when problems arise.
5. Acts as a liaison between the band director and the members while advocating for both.
6. Maintains the etiquette and decorum (group morale) of the band at all times.
7. Takes attendance and assigns band jobs
8. Makes sure we run on schedule

**B. Performances**

1. Upon arrival, report in immediately with the band director and receive instructions.
2. Take responsibility for making sure the band is assembled in the proper formation at the pre-designated time and place.
3. Check out uniforms and assist with general inspection.
4. Be responsible for moving the band from one area to another in an orderly fashion.
5. Prior to a parade, become familiar with the parade route.
6. Know when to bring the band to attention.

### C. Other

1. Help organize team building activities
2. Build leadership through a leadership activity each week (i.e. TedTalk, Read an article or book, work on a skill)
3. Consult with the band director regularly
4. Set the example at all times in dress, leadership, punctuality, alertness, precise marching, attitude, and morale.

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### **Duties of Section Leaders include but are not limited to:**

#### A. Rehearsals

1. Leads sectionals.
2. Helps individual band members when problems arise and spends extra time outside rehearsal with new members.
3. Acts as proper example for marching, playing, and good posture.
4. Maintains the etiquette and decorum (group morale) of the band at all times.
5. Set the example at all times in dress, leadership, punctuality, alertness, precise marching, attitude, and morale.
6. Assist with set up and clean up
7. Act as communication liaison between the band director and drum major to your section.

#### B. Performances

1. Upon arrival, report in immediately with the Drum Major and receive instructions.
2. Take responsibility for making sure the section is assembled in the proper formation at the pre-designated time and place.

**Section Leaders will have a formal interview on June 3rd**

### **Desirable Qualities of a Great Band Leader**

- The individual should be intelligent, and should have the capability to think quickly under pressure.
- A strong dedication to the band program by the individual is vital.
- The individual's musical ability should be of the highest level.
- The position is leadership-oriented; outstanding leadership qualities should be evident long before becoming drum major.
- The candidate should be personable and get along well with others.
- The candidate should be very dependable.
- The Drum Major is placed in a conspicuous position and is subject to spectator criticism and therefore should "look" the part at all times.
- Exhibiting a good attitude and encouraging good morale within the band is a major responsibility of the Drum Major.
- The Drum Major must be enthusiastic in his/her dealings with the band.

By returning this application you are showing that you understand what is being expected of you should you qualify for the position. A Drum Major or Section Leader is not expected to be at all rehearsals, he/she is **REQUIRED** to be at them all. There are no "free days" for the Drum Major or Section Leader, they are working all the time. You will be held to a much higher standard than you have ever been held before, and you will be asked to make numerous sacrifices for the good of the band program and your charges. Do not return this application unless you have absolutely no hesitations about what this position entails.

**Hackettstown High School Tiger Marching Band**  
2019-2020 Leadership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Section: \_\_\_\_\_

Years in Band: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I am applying for...

*(circle all that apply – if auditioning for Drum Major AND Leadership, complete only the Drum Major portion)*

Drum Major

Woodwind Leadership

Brass Leadership

Guard Leadership

Percussion Leadership

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read through the packet and understand the audition process and duties of being a leader for the Hackettstown High School Tiger Marching Band. I am fully able to commit to the requirements of leadership in the Tiger Marching Band. I understand and agree that if I should fail to properly and effectively perform the duties of the office or leadership position that I am assuming, or in the event that I should violate the rules, policies or Code of Conduct of the Tiger Marching Band or Hackettstown High School, that I will be relieved of those duties by the Band Director and relinquish the office or leadership position.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

**HHS Tiger Marching Band  
Leadership Application and Essay**

**PLEASE TYPE YOUR ANSWERS ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_

Please respond to the following questions:

1. What do the responsibilities of being a leader mean to you?
2. What qualities do you possess that make you a suitable leadership candidate?
3. Have you ever held a leadership position before? What was the outcome?
4. How do you currently go beyond expectations as a member of the Tiger Bands?
5. How will you go beyond expectations as a leader of the Tiger Bands?
6. Why should YOU be chosen as a leader?
7. What will you have to improve the most about your leadership?

**FOR DRUM MAJORS ONLY**

1. Why do you want to be a drum major over being a section leader?

**-REMEMBER, DRUM MAJOR AUDITIONS REQUIRE 2 TEACHER  
RECOMMENDATIONS- PLEASE SEE ATTACHED SHEETS**

# Teacher Recommendation

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Rate the student in each of the following categories. Please return this form to Mr. Freeman, not the student. This form will not be seen by the student.

4.Excellent    3.Good    2.Fair    1.Poor

Attitude 4 3 2 1

Responsibility 4 3 2 1

Dependability 4 3 2 1

Leadership 4 3 2 1

Comments:

Teacher's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Leadership 4 3 2 1

Comments:

Teacher's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Drum Major Audition

## 1. Calling Commands (Commands should be strong, decisive and rhythmic)

- a. Attention - Band Atten-hut
- b. Mark Time - Mark Time Harch
- c. Halt - Ready Halt
- d. Forward March
- e. Backward March
- f. Parade Rest - Band Parade Rest

## 2. Marching (must demonstrate with good technique)

- a. Attention
- b. Mark Time
- c. Forward March
- d. Backwards March
- e. Forward Slide Box
- f. Backward Slide Box

## 3. Conducting

- a. 2/4, 3/4, and 4/4 patterns at various tempo
- b. 4 count crescendo and 4 count decrescendo
- c. Cues on beats 1,2,3,4
- d. Cut off on beat 1, cut off on beat 3
- e. Tempo Tracking
- f. Conduct two selections

- i. Star Spangled

Banner:[https://www.marineband.marines.mil/Portals/175/Docs/Audio/Ceremonial/the\\_star-spangled\\_banner.mp3](https://www.marineband.marines.mil/Portals/175/Docs/Audio/Ceremonial/the_star-spangled_banner.mp3)

- ii. Mvt. 1 - Be A Hero:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ezn4mbndn7gajbv/AAD7FsPWNApy0d6-Pst21OAEa?dl=0>

## 4. Interview

- a. Elaborate on your essay questions
- b. Answer more leadership questions
- c. Answer leadership scenarios

## HHS Tiger Bands Drum Major Audition Rubric

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Adjudicator: \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Commands</b>	Mistakes with commands  Unclear  Weak	Commands correct  1-2 Errors  Understandable	Commanding volume  Clear and understandable  Requires a reaction	
<b>Marching</b>	Mediocre-weak marching  Weak posture  Inconsistent step size	Good marching  Appropriate posture, not extraordinary  Mostly accurate step size	Outstanding marching  Appropriate posture  Precise step size	
<b>Conducting</b>	Incorrect pattern  No ictus	Correct pattern, 1-2 errors  Ictus	Clear, accurate pattern  Excellent ictus	
<b>Time</b>	Dropped 7-10 beats	Dropped 3-6	Dropped 0-2	
<b>Discipline</b>	Decent audition	Good audition	Excellent Audition	
<b>Attitude/ Leadership</b>	Uncomfortable, uninterested, insincere	Confident but unsure	Outstanding confidence  Sure of self, beliefs, and abilities	
<b>Total</b>				

Additional Notes:

# Hackettstown Drum Major Handbook

## *Section 1: Drum Major Duties*

1. The Drum Major is the link of communication between the band director and his staff and his band.
2. A Drum Major always takes initiative with the band. Whether it be warming up the band or starting drill out on the field, it is the job of the Drum Major to get and keep the ball rolling without having to be told to do so.
3. The Drum Major is the motivator of the band. It is his/her job to keep band members motivated when learning music, drill, and when going into a performance situation.
4. A responsible Drum Major also disciplines with respect. If someone is doing or saying something inappropriate, it is his/her job to correct the behavior in a stern, yet respectful manner. Remember, you have to GIVE respect to EARN it.
5. Being that it is a leadership position, the Drum Major needs to exhibit a great amount of maturity and to take on a great amount of responsibility. YOU are responsible for the band and its actions. Please act accordingly. The best way for someone to learn something is to watch and mimic the actions of others. Instead of telling someone about something, do it. Be an example.
6. Even after marching season is completed, the Drum Major still maintains the role and the title as Drum Major, which means that everything that was expected of him/her is still, and will continue to be, expected of him/her.
7. A Drum Major is responsible for every aspect of the band. Please be sure that your band members know their roles and what is expected of them. The Drum Major needs to make that clear from the beginning.
8. Don't be afraid to "Put yourself out there." Be verbal with your band and talk with them. Sing their parts to them and correct them (in a polite and constructive manner) if they happen to be wrong (drill, note, rhythm). Let the band know when it is time to work and when there is down time. Verbalization is the key to having a successful band and a happy director! The band doesn't know what the Drum Major wants until it is expressed!
9. Always be a positive energy for the band. Negativity brings nothing positive to the band, the members, or the program. Remember, the glass is always half FULL.

10. Oversee the band in all its aspects. The band director or a staff member may not always be present, so run the show. The Drum Major is the leader of the band, so live up to the title. On the field and at practice, the band belongs to the Drum Major. Remember that, and remember the responsibilities and expectations that come with the position.

## *Section 2: Field Conducting, Cues, and Commands*

1. Do not show your palms to the audience when conducting. Keep them facing in towards each other.
2. Visualize conducting within "The box." Remember, boxes will vary based on the size of the person's torso, but the box should be contained.
3. Be sure to hit each of the ictus points located at each extreme of the box. If each of the points is not hit accurately, the pattern becomes sloppy and unclear to the band members.
4. Facial expression is NECESSARY when doing field conducting. They rely heavily on you and your expression to see what they need to do and how they need to play. Exaggerate the facial aspect. If you give expression, they will give you something positive in return in the way of their performance.
5. Use your pattern as a way to indicate crescendo and decrescendo. The pattern should become larger with a crescendo and smaller with a decrescendo. Even though the pattern is getting larger and smaller, all of that needs to be done within "The box."
6. Patterns can also be very helpful in alerting the band of different musical styles. For instance, if the band was playing a strict march, a stronger and tighter pattern is appropriate. If the band is playing a legato, the pattern should be soft and flowing. Adjust the conducting style based on the music. There can be more than one style of conducting in one piece of the music, which is usually the case.
7. Don't have an excess of body movement. When the upper and lower halves of the body begin to move too much, it can be a TOTAL distraction from the conducting pattern, which is the MOST IMPORTANT thing of all. The pattern should be the focus of the Drum Major and the band members.
8. Keep eye contact with the band. If a section of the band has a BIG entrance, LOOK

AT THEM! Don't assume that they know this is their entrance. The Drum Major needs to look at the section to give some guidance and reassurance.

9. CUE! Cue big entrances as well as sections. Cuing is just a reminder for sections or the entire band that they need to come in here or there is something big about to happen in the music. ALWAYS cue with the left hand.

10. Don't be afraid to put yourself into the music. Be expressive and let the band see you get into the music and its style. If you do this, the band will be more likely to do the same, which is what you want.

11. Give the band what you want them to give you. Model what you want. For example, if you want a part to be played a certain way, sing it how you want them to play it. Give them something and they will give something back to you. Give them nothing and that's exactly what you'll get.

12. Make sure that cutoffs are clear, crisp, and snappy. Avoid sloppy or extended cutoffs.

13. Conduct at chest level. The band isn't looking above or below chest level for your pattern. The chest is eye level and is a comfortable level for conducting. If you conduct at this level, correctly, it will prevent overexertion of the arms and upper body.

14. When bringing up the arms for the downbeat, do not bring them too high. You don't want them going any higher than your face. If you bring them up too high, you take too long for the downbeat, which throws your pattern and rhythms off.

15. If the band (or yourself) should ever get lost in the music, be sure to beat "1" until you (or the band) can find where you are. The band will be looking for a solid downbeat, so always know where your "1" is.

16. NEVER cross your pattern. Never let your arms or wrists or any part of your hand cross.

17. Don't use your whole arm when conducting. Only make use of the arm from elbow to wrist. Everything else should feel and appear to be frozen and in place.

18. Don't hold your pattern too close to your body. Push your pattern (to a comfortable and natural position) out away from your body. It will be closer to the band.

19. Don't let your elbow sag down. Elbows should always be pointed out to the side and

not down. If they are down, this means that your pattern is dropping and will not be readable.

20. Don't conduct with fingers that are spread apart. Keep them all together except for the thumb, which can be separated from the rest.

21. Practice conducting in front of a mirror. This lets you do a self- evaluation of your conducting and the progress that you're making.

22. Don't hold your left hand in the air without doing something with it. Move it up or down to vary dynamic level or use it for a cue. Don't just let it hang out up there!

23. Be sure to cue only when there is a section or soloist to cue. Don't randomly cue for the heck of it. Always have a section or person in mind for a cue.

24. Conduct the soloist with the right hand ONLY. But remember, after you have introduced your soloist, use two hands because you have an entire band that needs your instruction.

25. Know when to use formal and informal commands. Use "Band, Ten, Hut!" when starting the day, after lunch and at the end of rehearsal. ALWAYS use the formal command when at a competition or football game. Use "Set" when on the practice field.

26. Command the podium. You have been given a great responsibility, so take it and use it appropriately. When you get on that podium, you need to mean business.

27. When calling commands, do not call from your throat, but use your diaphragm instead. Grab a nice patch of air and then belt out the command from your diaphragm.

28. Be sure to vary the inflection in your voice. Don't keep all of your commands at one level. For example, "Band, Ten, Hut!" should be varied. "Band" and "Hut" should be higher in pitch and "Ten" should be lower.

29. Don't draw your commands out. Keep them short, clear, and snappy so that they can be heard.

30. Be sure to call "Set" and repeat instruction before moving to the next set.

31. Be confident! Know your score and each of the sections' parts. You can troubleshoot easily if you know this.

32. Never sing with the band while you're formally conducting. You cannot be in your own little world when you have other people on the field that need your direction.

33. Make sure you distinguish between the downbeat and beat "3." The downbeat is closer to the middle of your body, whereas the "3" is at the extreme of your box.

34. When cuing, always cue up, out, and at an angle. The band needs to see the cue, so make it stand out from your regular pattern of conducting.

### *Section 3: Miscellaneous Information*

1. Always treat every band member with the utmost respect. Never talk down to any member of your band.

2. Never address problems with ANYONE in front of other band members. Always take them to the side (at an appropriate time) and discuss issues with them privately.

3. Try and get to know each member of your band members to a certain degree. This shows that you care and you create a bond with your band members.

4. Rely on the other leaders within your band. They are a great group of allies and the Drum Majors, Horn Line Captains, and Section Leaders need to be in one accord.

5. Be proactive, not reactive. Look ahead to avoid large issues and potential problems.

6. If you are having a constant problem with someone or if there is an emergency, do not hesitate to go to the band director or a staff member. Safety is our top priority.

7. Always be courteous and respectful to the director and the marching staff. They are here to help you.

8. Have fun with your position! It goes by quickly, so make the most of it and make it memorable. Not everyone gets to be a Drum Major.