

# Drum Major Audition

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Congratulations on your decision to audition for Drum Major!

In this packet you will learn the process and materials needed to audition for Drum Major. The Drum Major leads by example and exemplifies the positive attitude, strong work ethic, spirit and morale of the **Brookwood High School Band Program**. Make sure you understand what it *means* to be the Drum Major, as well as the responsibility involved. You must have confidence, and the ability to balance the authority and relationships with the band. The Drum Major is a Musician, Marching Specialist, Teacher, Administrator, Communicator, Leader, Performer, and Friend.

READ THIS PACKET THOROUGHLY.

## Step 1:

### Application

Fill out the application and return it to Mr. Ardovino along with all other materials in one manila envelope no later than **April 29<sup>th</sup>**.

### Contract

Read, sign and have your parent/guardian sign the Brookwood High School Drum Major Contract. Please return it to Mr. Ardovino along with all other materials in one manila envelope no later than **April 29<sup>th</sup>**.

### Recommendations

Please have 2 teachers fill out the attached recommendation form and send it to Mr. Ardovino. Recommendations must be turned in with all other materials in one manila envelope no later than **April 29<sup>th</sup>**.

### Leadership Interview/Resume

Just like with leadership team, you must write and submit a resume. You must also schedule and complete an interview with Mr. Ardovino. These are both to be turned in at the time of your interview.

## Step 2: Verbal Commands

- Stand at attention with good posture.
- Remember you are presenting yourself: look and sound confident.
- It may feel silly yelling commands at home out of context, but practicing is the best way to prepare for the audition.
- When calling the commands, support your voice the way you would an instrument. Breathe deep into your diaphragm and use plenty of air.
- BE LOUD! But also remember to be crisp and understandable. Make sure that you aren't sacrificing your understandability for volume.
- Each command should be preceded by 4 claps.
- Please pause after each command. If you forget which command you are on, take a second to remember. Memorize and perform the commands in this order:

1. Band Ten Hut
2. Set
3. Band Horns Up
4. Band Horns Down
5. Mark Time Mark (any tempo)
6. Forward March
7. Backwards March
8. Left Slide March
9. Right Slide March
10. Band Halt
11. At Ease

## Step 3: Conducting

### *Conducting Part 1:*

- You will conduct 8 measures of each time: 4/4, 3/4, and 2/4. These should be done consecutively as 24 continuous measures.
- Ritard the last 4 beats, then give a fermata on the downbeat after the ritard.
- Give an "and down" after the release of the fermata.

### *Conducting Part 2:*

- Conduct 4 measures in 4/4 time of each style: Legato, Staccato, Marcato.
- This will total 12 measures. Like before, don't stop in between, start the Staccato measures as soon as the Legato ones are finished.

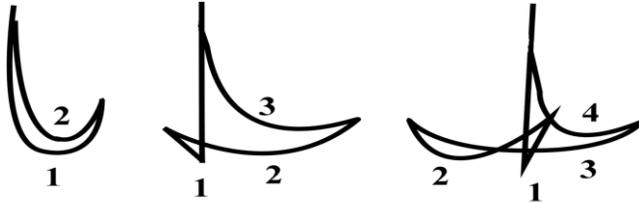
### *Conducting Part 3:*

- You will conduct along with a recording of Land of 1000 Dances, and the national anthem.
- Be sure to add style, dynamics, facial expressions, articulations, cues and energy.

## Conducting Tips

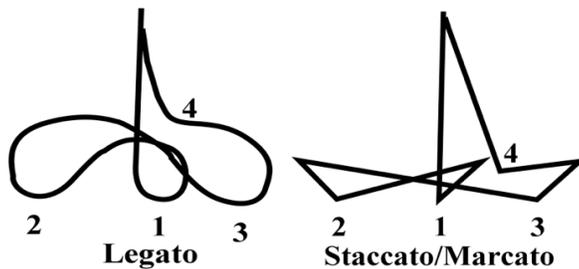
- Practice in front of a mirror.
- Practice with a metronome.
- Work with another person watching you. The best way to get feedback on conducting is to have someone else watch and make observations and corrections.

Basic conducting patterns:



## Conducting Style Tips:

1. **Marcato:** Fingers together, straight wrists, heavy beats
  - a. Each pattern should be firm and have strong downbeats.
  - b. Each beat of the patterns should be clear and visible.
  - c. Cut off should be clearly visible.
2. **Staccato:** Conduct with slight flick of wrist
  - a. Arms should be strong and be consistent on your “conducting plane.”
  - b. Each pattern should be firm and have strong downbeats.
  - c. Each beat of the patterns should be clear and visible.
3. **Legato:** Points are smooth and rounded out, fingers should be slightly bent with loose wrists.
  - a. Patterns should be smooth. Wrists can bend some but do not conduct as if you are “painting.”
  - b. Do not “mush” beats together during the pattern. Each beat, even in legato, should still be clear and visible.



**Inform Mr. Ardovino as early as possible if you are auditioning.**

**Auditions will be held Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> from 8 – 12 AM. You will be assigned a time by Mr. Ardovino for your audition.**

**The new Drum Major(s) will be announced 1 – 2 Days after the auditions have concluded, at the same time as leadership team.**

**The Drum Major responsibilities and duties will go into effect once announced.**

# Brookwood High School Drum Major Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Marching Instrument(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Have you held any leadership positions in other groups? Please list.

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What leadership skills have you *already* brought to the Band? (i.e., tell me what you have done to earn Drum Major):

Have you held a leadership position in any organization (including Band) before? (If yes, please elaborate):

Have you ever missed a Band rehearsal or performance, excused or unexcused? (If yes, please elaborate):

What plans do you have for the future of the Band, how can they be implemented, and what do you see as their long-term results?

## **Qualities of a Drum Major**

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. Candidate should be very dependable, organized and punctual.

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 all of his/her dealings with the band on AND off campus.

The Drum Major must respect authority.

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 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, he or she is 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. Do not return this application unless you have absolutely no hesitations about what this position entails.

# Brookwood High School Drum Major Contract

It is understood that if I am selected to Drum Major, I will be expected to:

1. Support the Band Director and other Staff with the utmost dedication, devotion and loyalty.
2. Maintain a strong dedication to the entire band program.
3. Not miss any rehearsals, performances or functions of the band except for severe illness or death in the family.
4. Attend all Band meetings
5. Up-hold the highest possible standards as set for all band members.
6. Participate in other band events (pep band, jazz band, special performances, etc.)
7. Demonstrate the highest level of musicianship throughout the entire year.
8. If not chosen, I will assume my regular role in the band and give full cooperation to the director and other members selected.
9. Purchase the required equipment.
10. Maintain high grades.

*I agree to follow the above policies and the policies of the marching band. I understand that failure to do so may result in my being removed as drum major.*

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

*I agree to help my student follow the above polices and the policies of the marching band.*

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_