

Titans Marching Band

Student Leadership Application

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of the student leadership team during the 2024-25 school year. Student leaders are an integral component of the Stevenson Titans Marching Band - and indeed the entire Stevenson Instrumental Music Program. Your choice to pursue one of these important positions is greatly appreciated and the first step towards a successful 2024-25 marching and concert season. The selection process is taken seriously by the staff and you are strongly encouraged to treat this process seriously.

Included in this packet you will find expectations, responsibilities, sample interview questions, and helpful hints to aid you in the application process.

To be considered for any leadership position, applicants need to submit the following: 1) A personal resume; 2) Thoughtful written responses to the provided questions; 3) The signed 2024-25 Leadership Contract (a parent signature is required); 4) A demonstration of support from your teachers. Responses to the written interview questions must be typed and will provide the staff with valuable insight into your level of professionalism. In addition to these written materials, all potential student leaders should be prepared to answer questions during an in-person interview.

Students in a leadership position should always show dedication, hard work, and strong character traits to be an effective leader. A candidate should also be a very strong musician and respond well to the direction and requests of the Band Director, Band Staff, and Band Booster leadership.

Please understand, if chosen, you will be held to a higher standard of behavior, performance, and work ethic than your peers. You must be willing to sacrifice so others around you may succeed. Serving in this capacity will not only provide others a better experience but will provide you with a tremendous growth opportunity that will serve you for years to come.

The staff looks forward to working through this process with you. Congratulations on taking your first step towards becoming a Drum Major or Section Leader for the Titans Marching Band!

Please note that if you are selected to be one of the band's Drum Majors or Color Guard Captains, you will be required to pay for and attend a leadership camp during the summer to help you prepare for your role as a student leader. This is in addition to our regular camps.

REQUIRED APPLICATION COMPONENTS

Application packets need to be submitted no later than **Friday, April 5th, 2024**

Early submissions are encouraged and show a level of dedication and commitment

USE THIS PAGE AS THE COVER OF YOUR PACKET

Applicant Name: _____

Position Applying For: _____

Checklist

_____ Signed and Dated **Titan Band Leadership Contract/Agreement**

_____ **Acknowledgment from 3 of your current teachers below**

_____ Responses to **written** interview questions, answered fully (submit as typed, printed document). Be sure to include the question as part of your response! Include any appropriate closing comments that you think will further your case for being selected.

_____ Personal Resume; please include:

- Work and community service
- Academic and school service
- Band service
- Musical & academic honors/accomplishments
- Leadership or staff positions previously held
- Other information that you feel may be applicable and influence your potential selection

Part of the application process includes **obtaining the support** of three of my current teachers (excluding anyone in the Stevenson Band program) **who have I asked to verify my potential to develop the leadership skills necessary to hold this position of responsibility.**

Teacher's Name: _____ Teacher's initials: _____

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TITANS BAND LEADERSHIP CONTRACT/AGREEMENT

Assuming a leadership role means added responsibilities and making a commitment to many other students, directors, parents, and supporters of the program. It is important you are fully aware of the responsibilities before accepting a position. Listed below are expectations for every leader in the program.

Music Preparation

- You will have all marching music prepared to your highest ability level before any others in your section. This includes showing up to camp prepared and memorizing music before set deadlines.
- You are responsible for members in your section learning music. This will include hosting help sessions, sectionals, etc.
- You will prepare the Band Audition material to the best of your ability.
- You will help other members of your section learn Band music Audition material, sectionals, etc.

Marching Preparation

- You will have a complete understanding of all marching fundamentals and execute them to the best of your ability at ALL rehearsals.
- You are responsible for members in your section having a complete understanding/ability to execute all necessary marching fundamentals to the standard set by the staff. This will include hosting help sessions, sectionals, etc.
- You and your section are responsible for memorizing each drill set's count structure.
- You will come prepared to every rehearsal and performance. This means always having your coordinate sheet/drill, music, water, etc.

Rehearsal Etiquette

- You will be the first person in your section to arrive for rehearsal and the last to leave.
- You will make phone calls/text message students who miss or come late to a rehearsal.
- You will not delegate unwanted responsibilities to younger members of your section, but instead be the first to volunteer to those duties.
- You will always, **be the model** of perfect rehearsal etiquette for your section. This includes not talking, giving your absolute best effort, encouraging students around you, and pushing yourself to be your best always.

Miscellaneous

- You will follow all directions with great attention to detail and expect the same from the rest of the section.
- Any problems you may have with the director, staff, or other leaders will be addressed in a respectful manner in private and you will support the final decision.
- If you are auditioning for a Colorguard Captain position, you **MUST be in a band class all year.**

I have read and understand the above responsibilities. I have also read through the Titan Marching Band Leadership Handbook. I am aware the above is a skeletal framework of the leadership staff and there are other responsibilities specific to my role in the Band Student Leadership Team. By signing this, I am stating that I will, always, do my best to improve myself and the students around me in a positive manner. I understand continual disregard for the above stated responsibilities will result in consequences not to exclude removal from the Band Leadership Team.

Student Name: _____ Leadership Position: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

WRITTEN INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Submit **YOUR** answers to the following in the format of a TYPED document. Please number your responses to match the question (no need to retype the question). Two or three sentences maximum for each question will suffice – do not write an essay!

1. What can you contribute as a leader in the program? What are your reservations and/or concerns?
2. What do you feel is the most important thing to improve in your section? Explain how you can help make this happen.
3. What do you feel is the most important thing to improve in the band overall? Explain how you can help make this happen.
4. What have you done since the end of the outdoor marching season in 2023 to help the program and the students around you become more successful?
5. On a scale of 1-10, rate your rehearsal behavior/work ethic. Do you work as hard in your concert ensemble as you do for marching band? What have you done to raise the number? What ideas do you have for raising that number?
6. What steps have you taken for individual improvement since you joined band? Do you take private lessons?
7. Describe in detail your past rehearsal behavior and relate it to your deservedness of a student leadership position in the program? Do you think you are punctual? Do you miss rehearsal time (for any reason)?
8. Briefly identify the characteristics and actions of an effective section leader.
9. Briefly list any personal goals for the 2024-25 marching band season (musically, visually, and socially).
10. Share any ideas you might have to make the season a success under the direction of a new director.

You may conclude the sheet on which you answer these questions by including any appropriate closing comments you think will further your case for your selection.

LEADERSHIP DESCRIPTIONS

es-prit de corps (e, sprē də 'kôr/) noun: a feeling of pride, fellowship, and common loyalty shared by the members of a particular group.

The band director appoints the student leaders of the Stevenson Titans Marching Band after submission of the application packets, auditions, and interviews have taken place.

It's important to note that consideration for your appointment as a student leader began from the time you entered the Stevenson band program – even as an 8th or 9th grader in the Marching Band. These positions are considered **full year appointments**, even though some duties may refer only to the marching season.

All students appointed as leaders shall, in addition to their listed duties, strive to uphold the image and spirit of the band at all times. All leadership appointments are to be considered **an honor and a responsibility, not a privilege.**

Leaders are expected aid the band director and staff in every way possible. Please be aware that all leaders are to be available to assist at all full-band rehearsals/camps and performances during marching season as well as during the entire school year for our in-school ensembles. You are expected to keep the lines of communication open between each other and between students and the director and staff.

Drum Major Duties

- Assist with rules and to maintain order for the full band during all marching activities
- Oversee Section Leaders to ensure marching band members where and when they need to be so all activities can begin promptly
- Conduct warm-up exercises and basics blocks
- Direct and control the band in field rehearsals and performances
- Responsible to delegate set-up for marching practice field for rehearsal. Sound system, podium, yard line markers, etc.
- Maintain "esprit de corps" within the band
- Report any major problems to the director
- Assist with uniform inspections
- Conduct and is in charge of pep rallies
- Conduct the bands in the stands at football games
- Assist the band director in all ways possible
- Work with the Band Boosters with the organization of the annual Marching Band Banquet
- **Qualifications for Drum Major include:** proficiency on instrument; ability to read musical score; ability to properly warm up band; **at least one year's experience in the Stevenson Marching Band**

Section Leader Duties

Flutes / Clarinets / Trumpets / Alto Saxes + Horns / Low Brass

- Assist the Drum Majors with rules and to maintain order within your section during all marching activities
- Direct summer and after-school sectional rehearsals
- Maintain "esprit de corps" within the section
- Responsible for section's marching and playing performance on the field and behavior in the stands
- Keep a daily record of attendance in designated notebook and report absences
- Inspect uniforms of section members
- Attend all meetings called by the Drum Major, Band Director, or Band Staff
- Report problems to the Band Director or Drum Major
- Assist with issuing school instruments and conducting inventory in the fall and spring
- Assist with locker assignments to Stevenson students in your section
- Help keep the instrument locker area clean
- **Qualifications include:** 1 year experience in Marching Band; proficient on instrument

Drumline & Frontline Section Leader Duties

- **All of the duties of section leaders, plus the following:**
- Assist with the direction of percussion rehearsals during the summer and regular marching season
- Responsible for seeing that all percussion equipment is put in its proper place after each rehearsal and performance and kept in an orderly manner
- Make sure that all rehearsal sites are clean before leaving
- Help keep percussion areas in the band room clean and organized (beyond the marching season!)
- Oversee the loading and unloading of all percussion equipment at all band functions (beyond the marching season!)
- Keep a record of all issued equipment and its condition
- Report any vandalism or damage to percussion equipment to the band director immediately

Color Guard Captain Duties

- **All of the duties of section leaders, plus the following:**
- Assist with organizing and directing Guard warm-ups and rehearsals
- Assist with instructing the marching show to other guard members
- Make sure that all rehearsal sites are clean before leaving

- Responsible for seeing that all guard equipment is put in its proper place after each rehearsal and performance and kept in an orderly manner
- Oversee the loading and unloading of all guard equipment at all band functions
- Keeps a record of all issued equipment and its condition

SAMPLE IN-PERSON INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- Why do you want to be a drum major or section leader?
- How do you define leadership and why do you think your peers will respect you as a student leader?
- Define your own strengths and weaknesses. How will you address the weaknesses?
- Why do you like being in band? Is there anything you dislike about being in band?
- What was good about the student leadership in the previous season? What didn't you like about the student leadership this year?
- What do you think you can improve about band and why?
- Talk to me about communication. Do you have any good strategies to get your ideas across to other students in the band? To me as your director? To the marching band staff?
- Talk to me about our chain of command. Why is it important? How would you handle a disagreement with someone above you in the chain of command?
- Scenario: You hear members of the band gossiping about another band member's poor marching. How do you handle it?
- To what extent should a section leader should be held responsible for the people in their section?

HELPFUL HINTS

Attributes band directors seek in a Drum Major:

- Command of the group: How well can you get the band to perform? Will they follow you?
- Command of the room: How well can you control the environment outside of the band members? Can you answer any question, react to any situation that may occur in or out of a rehearsal or performance setting?
- Conducting: How easy is your conducting to follow? Does your conducting have a distinct beat. Is your tempo consistent? Are your section, phrase, volume cues accurate and easy to follow.
- Crowd response: How well can you work the audience? A successful drum major develops a rapport with the crowd once they take the podium. They can get the crowd to become active participants in the band's performance. This causes a synergistic effect on the band. Ask yourself this: would you rather play to an audience that is very subdued and quiet, or one that is going wild over your band's performance?

What would eliminate you from consideration for Drum Major:

- Being unreliable: The drum major needs to be the most reliable person in the band. Remember, you are the example the rest of the band must follow. Your attendance, your marching skill, your uniform must always be impeccable. You should embody everything that you want your band to project. You should be early to every rehearsal and performance and be prepared to be one of the last people to leave. You should be able to answer any question or be able to direct that person to someone who knows the answer. You should know your venue. If you aren't familiar with a parade route, do a reconnaissance mission before the parade starts (use Google Street View). Find out the layout of the facilities of the field show venue as soon as practicable so that you can direct your band to changing rooms, rest rooms, etc.
- Dealing with problems with a negative attitude: You are the leader of your peers. For your band to be at it's best, you must remain positive in every situation both on and off the field. Even in the most dire of circumstances, look for a positive aspect. Remember that a problem is merely an opportunity for improvement!
- Being a prima donna: There is a very fine line between exuding confidence and thinking you are better than everyone else. Confidence inspires others. Being a Prima Donna will turn the band against you. Remember, you are there to make the BAND look good not the other way around.

Many of these hints apply to section leaders too!

SAMPLE RESUME

YOUR NAME

Street Address

City, State Zip

Phone Number

Email Address

Objective: A short sentence to tell the reader the position you are interested in

Education

School Name- School City, State

Dates of Attendance

Band Experience

Instrument(s) you are proficient with, how long you've played them

Work Experience

Company Name, Dates of Employment

- Job Title, Description, Responsibilities

Community / Band Service and volunteerism

Organization Name, Dates of involvement

- Description

Achievements / Leadership

- List Academic and Musical achievements, and any previous leadership positions you've held

Activities

- List volunteer experience, sports, clubs, etc as well as dates of involvement

Skills

- List computer, language, or other personal skills here