

2022-23 Titans Marching Band
Drum Major / Section Leader / Colorguard Captain
Information Packet

Marching Band Leadership

The band director appoints student leaders of the Stevenson Titan Marching Band after resumes are received, interviews have taken place, and auditions are completed. **All prospective student leaders are evaluated for their leadership potential from the time they enter the band program.**

These positions are all full-year appointments, even though some duties listed below may refer only to the Marching Band 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. These appointments are to be considered **both an honor and a responsibility, not a privilege**. Leaders should aid the band director and staff in every way possible. Please be aware that all leaders are expected to be available assist with providing guidance and leadership at all camps for Marching and Symphonic/Concert Band, Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band. You are expected to keep the lines of communication open between each other, between students, and the director and all adult staff members at all times.

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.

Common positive attributes of successful Drum Majors:

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 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?

Behaviors to avoid:

Being unreliable: Student leaders need to be the most reliable people 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. 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 (use Google Maps satellite view!) before the parade starts, preferably the day before. 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 our band to be fully successful, 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!

Successful Section Leaders / Caption Heads / Guard Captains share the same positive attributes as Drum Majors!

Drum Major Responsibilities

1. Assist with rules and maintains order during marching rehearsals.
2. Conducts warm-up exercises and basics blocks.
3. Directs and controls the band in field rehearsals and performances.
4. Delegates set-up for Marching Practice Field for rehearsal. Sound system, yard line markers, etc.
5. Maintains "esprit de corps" within the band.
6. Reports any major problems to the director.
7. Assists with uniform inspections and overseeing section leaders during marching rehearsals.
8. Conducts and oversees pep rallies.
9. Conducts the bands in the stands at football games.
10. Assists the band director in all ways possible.
11. Helps with the organization of the annual Marching Band Banquet.

Ongoing qualifications/requirements for Drum Major include: proficiency on their instrument; ability to read a musical score; ability to properly warm up band; at least one year experience in Marching Band. Must be enrolled at SHS and in a SHS Band class and maintain satisfactory grades and citizenship in all classes.

Section Leader Responsibilities

*Flutes, Clarinets, Saxes/Horns, Trumpets, Low Brass
Percussion Caption Leader, and Colorguard Captain*

1. Assists to assist with band rules and order.
2. Directs after-school sectional rehearsals.
3. Maintains "esprit de corps" within the band.
4. Is responsible for section's marching and playing performance on the field and behavior in the stands.
5. Keeps a daily record of attendance in designated notebook and reports any absences.
6. Inspects uniforms of section members.
7. Attends all meetings called by the Drum Major or Band Director.
8. Reports any problems to the Band Director or Drum Major.
9. Assists with issuing school instruments and conducting inventory in the fall and spring.
10. Issue and collect instrument rental forms.
11. Assigns lockers to all students in your section.
12. Helps to keep your instrument locker area clean.

Ongoing qualifications/requirements for Section Leader include: One year experience in Marching Band; proficient on instrument. Must be enrolled in SHS and be in a SHS Band class (except Guard Captain). Must maintain satisfactory grades and citizenship in all classes.

Percussion Section Leader Responsibilities

All of the duties of section leaders, plus the following:

1. Directs percussion rehearsals during the summer and the regular marching season.
2. Is responsible for seeing that all percussion equipment is put in its proper place after each rehearsal and kept in an orderly manner.
3. Makes sure that all rehearsal sites are clean before leaving.
4. Helps keep percussion areas in the band room clean and organized.
5. Oversees the loading and unloading of all percussion equipment at all band functions.
6. Keeps a record of all issued equipment and its condition.
7. Reports any vandalism to the band director immediately.
8. Helps keep percussion equipment area in the band room organized and clean.

Ongoing qualifications/requirements for Section Leader include: One year experience in Marching Band; proficient on instrument. Must be enrolled in SHS and be in a SHS Band class. Must maintain satisfactory grades and citizenship in all classes.

Colorguard Captain

All of the duties of section leaders, plus the following:

1. Organizes and directs Guard warm-ups and rehearsals.
2. Assists in teaching the marching show to the Guard.
3. Makes sure that all rehearsal sites are clean before leaving.
4. Is responsible for seeing that all guard equipment is put in its proper place after each rehearsal and kept in an orderly manner.
5. Oversees the loading and unloading of all guard equipment at all band functions.
6. Keeps a record of all issued equipment and its condition.

Qualifications include: One year experience in Marching Band; proficient with guard techniques. It is HIGHLY SUGGESTED TO be in a BAND class with Mr. Sekich. This is to assist with counting and rhythms and to work more closely with instrumental members. Must maintain satisfactory grades and citizenship in all classes.

Highlighted Leadership Responsibilities

- 1. Lead by example when it comes to summer uniforms**
 - a. Proper length white shorts (mid-thigh length or longer)
 - b. Shorts can't be "athletic style" (no elastic bands, etc)
 - c. No stripes on shorts
 - d. Comfortable, relaxed fit for performing in
 - e. Wear your Navy Blue t-shirts ONLY for performances**
 - i. Keeps them from fading and the decals from cracking / wearing out
 - ii. Prevents the likelihood of stains, holes, etc
 - f. Both shirts and shorts must be "crisp" / "clean" / "professional"

- 2. Have a dress rehearsal at one of your sectionals prior to camp in August** to make sure everyone in your section has a summer uniform that meet the standards of the Stevenson Marching Band

- 3. Encourage section members to limit the wearing of their Navy Blue shirts for performances**
 - a. Keeps them as something special
 - b. Serves as a reminder that when putting on that Navy Blue shirt, you are representing the Stevenson Marching Band

- 4. Work with your section members to properly label their items**, especially the insides of their formal Marching Band uniform pieces / hats. Lead by example – never put a Marching Band uniform inside a band cubby / locker!!

- 5. Keep in contact with all of your section members throughout the summer**
 - a. If someone is not attending sectionals and you don't know why, please contact Mr. Sekich, Mr. Belloli (percussion), or Mr. Austerman so we can assist in making sure they are engaged
 - b. Don't "cover" for someone if you don't know why they are not attending sectionals
 - c. It's okay for everyone to take a vacation, have a family commitment, etc
 - d. It's not okay for someone to miss because of work

Showing pride begins with always respecting your appearance when performing as a member of the Stevenson Marching Band. Treating your Marching Band uniforms as the something special that it is and establishing and respecting the highest expectations for yourself will increase your effectiveness as a leader.

Being a member of the Stevenson Marching Band is a privilege – out of almost 2,000 students that attend SHS, you have been given a special opportunity to represent yourself, your section, your school, your school district, and your community with pride.