

Band Leadership Auditions/Interviews

Drum Majors And Section Leaders

Next year, as we become not just a concert band but a full fledged marching band, there will be a great need for student leadership to assist in rehearsals, ensure good attendance and preparation, and making sure every member of the Monarch Band upholds the highest standards of musicality and conduct. The positions available, and their requirements, are as follows:

Drum major: this is the highest ranked student leader in the band. The drum major is essentially an assistant band director; he or she assists in running rehearsal, presides over the other student leaders, possibly runs rehearsals under the supervision of a substitute teacher when the band director is away, and most importantly conducts the band during parades and pep band. The drum major is expected to be the prime example of conduct, discipline, ability, and work ethic for the entire band.

Requirements: successful interview, demonstration of basic conducting ability, and maintaining a 3.0 GPA during their time as drum major. Continued development of their skill on their primary instrument and development of their conducting skills. Extra rehearsals and meetings with the band director as needed/at the director's discretion. Open to 10th, 11, and 12th graders only.

Assistant drum major: this is the second highest ranked student leader in the band. The assistant drum major is responsible for aiding the drum major in all necessary tasks and assuming any responsibilities of the drum major in the event of absence, incapacitation, or removal.

Requirements: successful interview, demonstration of basic conducting ability, and maintaining a 3.0 GPA during their time as drum major. Continued development of their skill on their primary instrument and development of their conducting skills. Extra rehearsals and meetings with the band director as needed/at the director's discretion. Optional playing audition. Open to all grades.

Section leaders: Section leaders are responsible for individual sections of the band, usually though not always grouped by individual instruments. They are responsible for ensuring good attendance, punctuality, and conduct from their sections, scheduling and running sectionals (section only practices) outside of class rehearsal time, and being the first point of contact to help with any problems their section members have. The section leader is not necessarily the best *player*, but they are the best *leader*. Open to all grades.

The sections for next year are **flutes and oboes, clarinets, alto saxophones, trumpets, french horns, low instruments (trombone, baritone, tenor sax, bari sax, tuba), and percussion**. I reserve the right to split or consolidate sections at a later time based on the needs of the band.

Requirements: successful interview. Optional playing audition. Extra rehearsals and meetings with the band director as needed/at the director's discretion.

Drum captain: The drum captain is the title of the section leader of the percussion section.

The drum major, assistant drum major, and section leaders will form the Band Advisory Council, which will assist the director in matters such as shirt designs, planning band parties, trip selection, and any other concerns of the band membership.

Auditions/Interviews

In the future the selection process will involve both a playing audition AND an interview, and the interviews will be open to the public. However, given that this is new, and the nature of our instrument situation this year, the selection for section leaders will be based purely on the interview process. Drum major candidates will interview and demonstrate basic conducting in 4/4, 2/4, and 3/4.

Interviews for all leadership positions are Friday, June 13, after school, in the band room.

You MUST schedule a time in advance, preferably as soon as possible.

You will be interviewed by a panel of myself and at least two other band directors. The other panelists confirmed are

Mr. David Yamamoto, Director Of Instrumental Music, Corvallis Middle School, Norwalk, CA

Mr. Loren Gamarra, Director Of Bands, Valley View High School, Moreno Valley, CA

The final panelist will either be

Mrs. Annette Betts, Director Of Bands, Lake Elsinore High School, Lake Elsinore, CA or

Mr. George Wu, Director Of Music, Temple Intermediate School, Rosemead, CA

The interview process: Each candidate will be given a 15 minute block of time. You will not be shown the questions in advance, but in general they will be about your approach to leadership, why you want the position, and why we should pick you over anyone else. Each panelist will ask 4-6 questions; while each panelist will develop their own questions all candidates will be asked the same questions. At the end, time permitting, we may follow up on your answers to certain questions or give you time to ask questions of the panel.

The selection process: The panel will come to a consensus on the best candidate for each position. In general I will take the panel's suggestions HEAVILY into account, but **I reserve the right to make the final decision on all student leadership.** I also reserve the right to appoint section leaders if there are not enough candidates or if the candidates are of insufficient quality.

The announcement date: All student leaders will be announced on **Monday, June 16**, unless there are enough candidates to necessitate a second interview day.

This is a great chance to help our band grow and improve, and for you to grow and improve. If you have any questions, please contact me as soon as possible. Thank you for interest in being a student leader, and good luck!

-Mr. Lackey

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