

2015 Saratoga High School Marching Band and Color Guard Drum Major Application Packet

Revised April 14, 2015

Drum Major candidates should read through this information slowly and carefully to make sure all items are clear. You must be able to attend all of the events listed to be eligible.

Audition/Application Requirements:

1) Written Response

Due on Monday, May 11th at 5:00pm

Please read and complete the following application form and written response. You will submit a printed copy of the written response, as well as email a Word document or PDF attachment of your typed responses to Mr. Pwu at jpwu@lgsuhd.org.

2) Peer/Staff Evaluation

Due on Monday, May 11th at 5:00pm

Have at least three fellow students complete recommendation forms (attached).

- a. One must be from someone in your grade level who was in MB/Guard.
- b. One must be from someone *not* in your grade level who was in MB/Guard Fall 2014.
- c. The third one will be given from a marching band staff member (Visual/Guard/Perc).

Put your name on the recommendation forms and give them to the students/staff who will be filling them out. The students/staff you choose will give the forms directly – *it is your responsibility to follow-up and make sure the students turn in their forms by May 11th*. For staff member email, see Mr. Pwu and he will give you his/her email contact.

3) Director Interview/Metronome Audition

Tuesday, May 19th, 3:30-5:30pm

Drum Major applicants will meet with band directors and verbally communicate why they are applying for Drum Major, and why they feel they are the best candidate. During this interview, drum majors will be asked to give certain tempos, guess (to the best of their ability) given tempos, as well as demonstrate a 4/4 conducting pattern at 172bpm. Each interview will take approximately 15 minutes.

4) Service Project

Completed by Tuesday, May 19th

Complete a service project for the SHS Music Department. The scope and duration of the project are at your discretion. You may choose something that you think needs to be done. Do anything you deem appropriate and beneficial to others in the program, and don't be afraid to "think outside the box". If you have any questions about the validity of your chosen project, see Mr. Pwu prior to starting it.

Jazz Band II ('15-'16) and Pit Orchestra Members are exempt from the Service Project portion of this application, as their participation is overwhelming evidence of their dedication, commitment, and enthusiasm.

5) Student Voting and Input:

Wednesday, May 20 14th, In Class

Each band and guard student will have the opportunity in class to vote and provide (optional) short written feedback for Drum Major candidates.

The 2015 Leadership Team will be announced on Friday, May 22nd

Please read the following points carefully before beginning the process. Serving as a Drum Major for the SHS Marching Band is one of the most challenging student leadership opportunities at SHS. There is no other student leadership role in which a student has the expectation of being in front of 200+ students every day, leading and serving the group in some capacity or another. Understand that dealing with 200+ different personalities, learning styles, and opinions is difficult to deal with for one day, let alone every day for an entire season.

****Read through these several times before continuing with the drum major application.****

If you are considering applying for this particular role, you must be willing to face the following realities of being a Drum Major:

- You will prioritize the marching band around all other activities – marching band will always come first if you desire to be a drum major (the largest leadership role on campus).
- You will commit to spending substantially more time preparing for the season during this spring and summer than any other student. Much of this preparation will be on your own and not guided by a teacher/advisor.
- You will arrive to every rehearsal early to prepare for the events of the day.
- You may sleep less than the rest of the band (depending on how you manage your time): you will be at school early, and you will stay at school late.
- You will not always be popular with your peers.
- You will give up your lunch or break time if things need to be done during this time.
- You will be expected to solve problems with a smile, even when you want to scream!
- You will continue to conduct, even when your arms feel as though they will soon fall off!
- You will commit to strength training and working on your cardiovascular health during the spring and summer. Good physical health always puts us into a better position when dealing with leadership. Lifting weights and making sure your body is strong and will enable you to conduct and lead basics rehearsals for long periods of time.
- You will understand the game of football and learn to appropriately perform “crowd-pleasing” cheers at home football games prior to the football season.
- You will spend time outside of class encouraging new and struggling students – telephone, email, notes, etc.
- You will be energized when in the presence of the band, even when you are exhausted.
- You will be constantly active in rehearsal, even when another drum major is running the activity. Recognize there are always things to be done!
- You will carry out the instructions of the band directors, even when you think the band directors have “lost their marbles.”
- You will never disagree with the instructional staff in public or in private with other students – you will discuss behind closed doors.
- You be willing to take calculated risks.
- You will not be afraid to laugh at yourself – often!

****Remember: Leadership = Service!****

Saratoga High School Marching Band 2015 Drum Major Application

Please complete the following:

Name: _____ Current Grade: 9 10 11
Main Instrument: _____ Other Instrument: _____
How many years have you been in High School Band, Orchestra, or Guard? _____
Email: _____ Cell #: _____

Please answer the following questions:

- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| 1) Do you understand that the role of Drum Major is a full year commitment, including the responsibility of recruiting during registration season, guard and drumline auditions, music and form distribution, as well as serving as a liaison between staff and students? | Yes | No |
| 2) If selected to be Drum Major, do you agree to attend every scheduled rehearsal and performance of the Marching Band as well as make Marching Band your top priority? | Yes | No |
| 3) Do you understand there is no option for “conflicts” during the season, such as outside classes (including SAT/ACT prep classes)? | Yes | No |
| 4) Do you understand that your role as Drum Major will include serving as a representative and ambassador of the band program, and your actions will reflect not only the Saratoga HS Music Department but also that of Saratoga High School? | Yes | No |
| 5) If you are not selected as Drum Major, will you respect this decision and positively support the Drum Major who is selected as well as continue to be an outstanding and supportive member of our marching band? | Yes | No |

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Reminder: Most high school students are not ready for this type of role.
Often times the most effective leadership takes place within the ensemble.

Please complete the following questions in written form:

The attention you give to these questions and format for answering will be carefully noted. The directors, instructional staff, several SHS administrators/faculty, and selected marching band alumni will be reading your responses to the following questions. Please turn in a typed copy, as well as email a Word Document or PDF attachment to Mr. Pwu at jpwu@lgsuhsd.org

- 1) What is the single most important quality of being drum major?
- 2) Explain how student leadership can best serve as an integral part of band camp and the marching band season, including ways to better connect with our incoming freshman class, as well as all classes, as our membership grows.
- 3) Creating and maintaining a growing activity is a constant challenge. As a leader, you have a direct impact on the quality of the organization. What have you done to help promote the marching band and color guard program? Be specific about what you have done and who you have contacted.
- 5) Describe your rehearsal etiquette on the field. What is a strategy you would use to improve rehearsal etiquette?
- 4) Who is one of your role models? Why?
- 5) Who do you feel is or has been the most effective student leader in the SHS band program since you have been here? Why?
- 6) What are your greatest personal strengths? How will you use them as Drum Major? What do you feel you have done/accomplished in your high school career that qualifies you to be drum major of the SHS marching band and lead this group of 200+ students? List everything you can think of. Don't be hesitant to "brag," and be confident.

Peer Evaluation Names:

Please list the name of students who are filling out the Peer Evaluation Forms.

1) Name: _____ Grade: _____

2) Name: _____ Grade: _____

3) Staff Member: _____

Saratoga High School Marching Band 2015 Drum Major Application – Peer Evaluation Form

Hello! _____ is applying for the position of Drum Major for our SHS Marching Band for the 2014 school year. The candidate has requested that you help us evaluate his/her leadership potential by completing the following recommendation. Please answer each of these questions openly and honestly. Your comments and personal experience with the candidate will be particularly helpful to us as we select next year's leadership team. *Your responses will be kept confidential and will not be seen by the candidate.* Thank you for your help!

Please return this recommendation to Mr. Pwu no later than **Monday, May 11th, at 5:00pm.**

Please check the box that most accurately represents the candidate's ability in the following:

	Outstanding	Very Good	Average	Mediocre	Poor
Attitude towards music and the marching band					
Dedication to fellow students and the music department					
Musicianship and performance skills					
Rehearsal Etiquette					
Ability to work with others in a positive manner					
Ability to be a positive role model for other students					
Ability to go above and beyond what is asked of them					

Additional comments regarding the candidate's qualifications or leadership ability (optional):

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Saratoga High School Marching Band 2015 Drum Major Application – Peer Evaluation Form

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Ability to work with others in a positive manner					
Ability to be a positive role model for other students					
Ability to go above and beyond what is asked of them					

Additional comments regarding the candidate's qualifications or leadership ability (optional):

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Saratoga High School Marching Band 2015 Drum Major Application – Staff Evaluation Form

Hello! _____ is applying for the position of Drum Major for our SHS Marching Band for the 2014 school year. The candidate has requested that you help us evaluate his/her leadership potential by completing the following recommendation. Please answer each of these questions openly and honestly. Your comments and personal experience with the candidate will be particularly helpful to us as we select next year's leadership team. *Your responses will be kept confidential and will not be seen by the candidate.* Thank you for your help!

Please return this recommendation to Mr. Pwu no later than **Monday, May 11th, at 5:00pm.**

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Ability to be a positive role model for other students					
Ability to go above and beyond what is asked of them					

Additional comments regarding the candidate's qualifications or leadership ability (optional):

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____