

Woodstown High School Marching Band



Student Leadership Audition Information

Congratulations on your decision to audition for the position of Drum Major and/or Section Leader. You may audition for either or both positions.

Being DM is a great opportunity to learn, lead and just have fun. Feel free to ask the previous DM or Staff any questions, or for extra help with the audition process.

Make sure you understand what it *means* to hold a student leadership role, as well as the responsibility involved. The Drum Major is the most visible position in the marching band. This person is the leader on the street. The Drum Major and Section Leader both exemplify spirit, work ethic, and morale of the band. You must have confidence and the ability to balance the authority and relationships with the band. Student leaders are musicians, marching specialists, teachers, communicators, leaders, performers, and friends.

Best of luck in your audition!

There are 3 parts to the audition. The deadline for submissions for all items is **May 31**. Videos should be uploaded to Google Drive and shared with Mrs. Nowmos at nowmos.c@woodstown.org or uploaded in the application form.

Part 1: Google Form Application

Please complete this [online student leadership application](#). You may upload the videos for Parts 2 and 3A/B directly in the form if you choose.

Part 2: "Interview" Video

Instead of a live interview, this year you will make a video of yourself talking about the following topics:

- Your reasons for auditioning for a leadership role
- Qualities that make you make a good leader and what you can bring to the role of drum major or section leader
- What leadership means to you in the band setting
- Your goals for yourself and for the band
- Ideas you might have to make the band stronger and more successful.
- Why band is important to you and what it means to you personally

Speak with confidence and let your personality shine through! You can choose to read from a script you have written or to speak spontaneously, whichever you feel more comfortable with.

Part 3: Conducting and/or Performance

A. Conducting Video (Drum Major applicants only)

Make a video demonstrating your conducting skills. Your audition will include these components.

- 8 measures of 5/4 at 152 bpm
- 8 measures of 3/4 at 70 bpm
- 8 measures of 2/4 at 128 bpm
- 8 measures of 4/4 at 144 bpm

Start each excerpt with an 8-beat countoff in 4/4 (1 - 2 - 1, 2, 3 4) regardless of meter, and end each section with a cutoff on beat 1 of the next measure. You may use a metronome or the provided [click track](#). (Here is a [YouTube version](#) if you have trouble accessing the audio file.)

Here is a [video of Mrs. Nowmos](#) explaining the requirements and demonstrating the conducting patterns. And here is the [audition example](#) separately so you can practice with it. Some tips:

- Practice in a mirror.
- Practice with a metronome.
- Make sure all beats are clear.
- Conduct in a window (chest to nose, shoulder to shoulder). Avoid going too wide and too low.

B. Performance Video (Section Leader applicants only)

- **Musicians:** Make a video of yourself performing a short excerpt of music of your choosing on your instrument. Percussionists may use a practice pad or whatever equipment you have available at home. Your video should demonstrate rhythmic/tonal accuracy, good technique/tone quality, musicianship/expressiveness, and confidence/preparedness.
- **Color Guard:** Make a video of yourself performing a short routine of 24-32 beats that you have choreographed. If possible, make use of any items you have at home as props/equipment (e.g. broom stick, scarf, etc.). Your video should demonstrate rhythmic accuracy, good technique, expressiveness, and confidence/preparedness.

If you are auditioning for both Drum Major and Section Leader, you should do both 3A and 3B.

**CRITERIA / GENERAL ATTRIBUTES FOR
WOODSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND'S
HIGHEST LEADERSHIP POSITIONS**

“LONG TERM” BEHAVIORAL CONSISTENCY

Great Band Citizen
Dependable, Organized and Punctual
Positive Attitude
Able to remain positive and innovative

MUSICIANSHIP

Dedicated to improving personal musical performance
Chair Placement; solo work
Musical Pride

PERSONALITY AND PERSONAL BEHAVIOR

Maintains exemplary personal lifestyle standards in and out of school (including, but not limited to, drug and alcohol use habits)
Displays emotional stability
Able to set aside personal problems during class and when on duty
Friendliness
Strong character, ethics, and ideals at all times
Able to stay upbeat in the presence of the band, even if you have to
“fake it” - (very important if you don't want a negative attitude to emerge)

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Can relate to and communicate with band director and staff
Can relate to and communicate with student peers

Your rating for the audition will be based on this [Student Leader Audition Rubric](#) and will include not only your performance in your videos but also past evidence of leadership qualities as described above.

Through auditioning for drum major or section leader, you are showing that you understand what is expected of you should you qualify for a student leader position. A student leader is not just expected to be at all rehearsals, he/she is **REQUIRED** to be there. You will be held to high standards and expected to set an example for others in the band regarding not only musicianship but also dependability and commitment, behavior and attitude both on and off the field, and communication skills. You will be asked to give of your time outside of rehearsal for the good of the band program and your fellow band members. In completing the application/audition process, you are acknowledging that you fully understand the responsibilities of the role and have absolutely no hesitations about what this position entails.

Drum Major and Field Lieutenant Job Description

- To promote character, integrity, and leadership of WHSMB.
- To serve as an example of the model band student by going above and beyond what is required in the band program (e.g. helping with building/painting props, participating in and assisting with fundraisers, volunteering to help with music department events, auditioning for honors ensembles, etc.)
- To live out the phrase “To be early, is to be on time; To be on time is to be late; To be late is to be sorry” by arriving early to rehearsals and assuring that all equipment is put away before leaving at the end of rehearsals.
- Leading by example in all areas of the collective campus including the classroom and extra-curricular activities.
- Aid the directors in the implementation, teaching, and maintenance of a sound marching fundamental strategy.
- Lead by example in the learning and performing of marching and stand music.
- Conducting the marching band at all performances as prescribed by the directors. Some examples would include pep rallies, half time performances, Flag-Line tunes, rehearsals, sectionals, etc.
- Develop and aid in the implementation of a peer-tutoring program to assist monitoring the progress of student academic success.
- Develop and aid in the implementation of a band room and practice field clean-up process that sees to the well-being of our facility.
- Lead marching rehearsals when called upon.
- Establish and maintain an accurate roll at band functions. Use section-leaders to take roll and help keep the records up to date.
- Train and educate prospective drum major/officer candidates in the spring of each year.
- Develop and implement new strategies for recruiting. This is of primary importance at the grade school / middle school levels.
- Designate and help lead regular student leader meetings throughout the year.
- See to the mental, emotional, and physical well-being of all of the band students by keeping close contact with fellow band members.
- Help establish, implement, and maintain a set of posted goals and a vision statement for the band program for the up-coming school year.