



Kennard-Dale Marching Rams Student Leadership Packet



Thank you for your interest in joining the Kennard-Dale Marching Rams Student Leadership Team! Please remember that you may apply for multiple positions if you are interested. Please reference the following timeline for deadlines. **Failure to meet deadlines or attend auditions will negatively impact your chances of a leadership role.** Professionalism in your application, audition, and interview is a key factor to gaining a leadership role.

Friday May 8th, 2026: Applications Due by 11:59 PM (access through sesdmusic.org)

Wednesday May 13th, 2026: Auditions/Interviews Held After School on the Practice Field

For questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Mr. Nielsen **prior to Friday May 8th, 2026**. You can reach Mr. Nielsen at nielsena@sesdrams.org.

All descriptions of positions and applications can be accessed through the SEDS Music Website (sesdmusic.org). Interview and Audition Material can be found in this packet.

Go Marching Rams!

Mr. Alek Nielsen, Director - nielsena@sesdrams.org

Mrs. Christine Rasmussen, Assistant Director - rasmussenc@sesdrams.org

Ms. Barbara Peterson, Color Guard Instructor - petersonb@sesdrams.org



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Drum Major Audition

As a Drum Major, knowledge and ability to conduct are vital. For this reason, it is required that any candidates for Drum Major audition by conducting a piece of their choice along to a recording. To do this, use the JW Pepper Website and look through the Marching Band catalog. Choose a piece with a recording that you'd like to audition with. We suggest choosing something that demonstrates your full ability and impresses us.

The second part of your audition will be making calls as a Drum Major. These calls include:

Band, Parade Rest

Band, Ten Hut

Mark Time

Forward March

Band Halt

You will not use a whistle for these calls, you will be making them verbally.

The last part will be recalling tempos. We will ask you to clap 80, 120, and 200 BPM to your best knowledge.

Drum Major Interview

This is a formal event, and you should dress as such! Here are some sample questions you may be asked. **You may get asked questions that aren't in this packet.**

- What does being a drum major mean to you?
- How would you mitigate a dispute between two band members? At what point would you take it to a director?
- Talk about a technique you would use to motivate a team.
- Talk about a time you solved a problem in a team.
- What strengths would you bring to the band if you were a leader?



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Field Commander Audition

As Field Commander, knowledge of marching techniques is crucial to this role. For your audition, you will demonstrate exemplary marching techniques on the field. This will include forward and backward marching, marching in halftime, and box drills. This will also include responding to calls made by the Drum Major. They will also be asked a series of related questions in their interview.

Field Commander Interview

This is a formal event, and you should dress as such! There will be two parts to your interview. First, you will be asked a series of questions related to marching techniques and how to correct another marching band member's techniques. **Some** of these questions **may** include:

- How would you correct a student who does not march backwards on their toes?
- In your opinion, what is the most important part of marching position during a hold?
- Do you have ideas for drills to teach during fundamental work? What are they?

A Field Commander is a major leadership role. Other questions that may be included in your interview are:

- What does being a field commander mean to you?
- How would you mitigate a dispute between two band members? At what point would you take it to a director?
- Talk about a time you gently corrected someone's marching technique.
- What strengths would you bring to the band if you were a leader?



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Section Leader Audition

Section Leaders are role models to students in their section and will be auditioned as such. Section Leaders should be able to demonstrate exemplary marching technique, as well as mentor members in their section musically.

The section leader audition will be used to demonstrate your marching skills. This will include forward and backward marching, marching in halftime, and box drills. This will also include responding to calls made by the Drum Major.

Guard Members, you will be teaching a skill to a “new member.” Skills could be any of the following: drop spin, figure eight, or around the world.

Section Leader Interview

This is a formal event, and you should dress as such! Here are some sample questions you may be asked. **You may get asked questions that aren't in this packet.**

- What does being a section leader mean to you?
- How would you mitigate a dispute between two band members? At what point would you take it to a director?
- Talk about a technique you would use to motivate a team.
- What strengths would you bring to the band if you were a leader?