

DRUM MAJOR AUDITION INFORMATION

Wednesday, May 11th (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, & 6th Periods and after school May 12th 4:30-6:30)

What We're Looking for in a Drum Major:

- Servant Leader (not on a power trip!)
- Confidence (but not cockiness!)
- Musicianship (Be an example on your instrument)
- Poise
- Organized & Responsible
- Self-Discipline
- Good Communication Skills (Verbal & Kinesthetic)
- Outstanding Role Model
- Showmanship
- Physical Fitness & Endurance
- Mental Sharpness
- Problem Solver NOT a Problem Creator
- **NO DRAMA!!!**
- Make mature, intelligent decisions
- Positive Motivator
- Be Involved and Visible with the Band
- Have a General Concern for Others
- Approachable (Not Stand-offish)
- Willingness to give up time from other things for the band
- Focused on the "We" and "Us", not the "I" and "Me"
- Can process criticism and new information
- Not afraid to try out new ideas or styles
- Good Conducting Abilities
- Good Rhythm & Feel for Tempo
- Score Reading Comprehension

The Formal Tryout Process:

WE WILL RECORD EACH AFTER SCHOOL AUDITION ON THAT DAY

Inside Introductions – Total of 15 pts.

- Salute – 5 pts.
- Introductions (name, grade, instrument, leadership positions held-if any) – 5 pts.
- Questions from Judges – 5 pts.

Inside Conducting – Total of 55 pts.

- Basic Patterns (4-3-2 Drill...2 measures Staccato, 2 measures Legato for each time Quarter note = 108) – 15 pts.
- Prepared Music – TBD (showmanship, energy, facial expressions, patterns, cues) – 20 pts.
 - o Music can be downloaded at the following link: <http://www.miltonhighschoolband.com/leadership-info.html>
- Personal Selected Music – Max of 3ish minutes - 20 pts.
- Final Short Salute – 0 points

"Outside" Marching – Total of 30 pts.

- Vocal Commands (volume, enunciation, clarity, precision, timing "think marine drill sergeant") – 15 pts.
- March Style (posture & image, execution, style) – 15 pts.

Suggestions:

- 1- Be well prepared! You will be nervous!
- 2- Watch yourself conduct in a mirror and/or record yourself conducting! That is the best way to clean!
- 3- Conduct for others and get feedback
- 4- Stay in your conducting "window" or "box".
- 5- Watch out for fly away fingers, curly Qs, and unclear patterns.
- 6- Remember that the band must be able to follow your conducting (the ictus is important).
- 7- If you get off, recover quickly. (don't get flustered; we won't restart the music)
- 8- Dress comfortably with comfortable marching shoes, yet look sharp!
- 9- Dress uniformly with the other candidates (Band Shirt/Blue Jeans)