

A New Member's Guide to...

SURVIVING MARCHING BAND

LDHS Falcon Marching Band

2020 – 2021

Words to live by from those who came before you...and survived!

Congratulations!!

You are now a member of the award-winning Lake Dallas High School Falcon Marching Band. So now what???

We hope this guide will help you feel more comfortable with the complexities you may find within your first marching band experience. The first year of marching band can be overwhelming and confusing. We hope this helps take the mystery out of your first year, answer some questions that you may already have, and prepare you for the many hours of excitement you have ahead of you. Get ready to work hard and soak it all in, because you'll only be a new member once!

The Falcon Marching Band...the Pride of Falcon Land!

Who's Who...

- Director of Bands and Jazz Studies: Mrs. Kennedy
- Director of Percussion and Associate Director: Mr. Burke
- Assistant Director: Mr. Bayless
- Director of Color Guard: Miss Benavidez
- Drum Majors: Students who have the highest responsibilities on and off the field. Our field conductors.
- Captains: Student leaders who will oversee the details of the 4 main instrument groups (Brass, woodwinds, percussion & color guard).
- Section Leaders: Student leaders that are in charge of assisting their instrumental section.
- Band Council: Student leaders who organize social activities and events throughout the year.
- Service Leaders: Student leaders who volunteer to make sure the band functions smoothly.
- Band Boosters: Parents and volunteers that make up the non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the band and color guard program.

Contact Information...

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“We all have dreams. But in order to make dreams come into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline, and effort”—Jesse Owen

What is.....

- **Band Registration Day (the Saturday before band camp starts):**

- **Band member plus one parent must attend.**

- **PARENTS:** This day is a chance for the PARENTS to get all of the information they will need to navigate through the band year. This is when all paperwork must be completed and when you pay your band fees (or at least make a partial payment). Mrs. Kennedy will send detailed information sometime in the summer with everything you need to know about that day. Stations will be set up so you can learn about fundraising opportunities, sign up for Game Night Dinners, sign up to chaperone, order formal wear for the spring concert season, purchase spirit wear and so much more.
 - **STUDENTS:** You will be fitted for your marching uniform, and sized for your marching shoes and gloves.

- **Is attending Band Registration important? YES!!**

- ◆ **Band Camp (last week of July through August):**

- Band Camp is both a mental and physical challenge, but it gives you a sense of accomplishment at the end. Participation in Band Camp is important because it is about learning the band's marching show - music and drill. We will also choose members for the competitive band based on their performance during the first few days of Band Camp. Attendance at this camp is mandatory. Speak to directors about any concerns.

- Generally, the rehearsal schedule is as follows:

- Week 1 – 7:00 am to 2:30 pm, with a lunch break from 11:30 to 12:30 pm
 - One Saturday rehearsal is scheduled at the end of Week 1 (7:00 am to 11:00 am)
 - Week 2 – 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm
 - Week 3 – 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm (Color Guard schedule may vary)
 - Things to know:
 - You must wear a hat, sunglasses and sunscreen.
 - You must bring your Falcon Band issued water jug.
 - Athletic shoes with proper arch support are required.
 - White shirts are required in all outdoor rehearsals.
 - Lunch is from 11:30 – 12:30 pm daily. Students may bring their lunch or leave campus with parent permission.
 - The Boosters will provide a fruit break each morning, and each grade level will be assigned a day to bring fruit.
 - There will be fun things during camp such as dress up days, a watermelon eating contest, talent show, etc.

(Yes it will be hot, yes it will be tiring, and yes you have to come back each day.)

- ◆ **Falcon Band Hype Day & Music Mini-Camp:**

- The Falcon Band Hype Day will be the first time that the returning and new members will meet as a group. It is designed to teach the fundamentals of marching and the “hype” the Falcon Band. It is held for three-four hours usually in early to mid-May after school or on a Saturday at LDHS. Students will meet their new leadership team for the first time and begin functioning as the Falcon Band for the upcoming season. The Band Boosters often host a “get to know you” picnic following Hype Day activities. All students AND parents are invited to attend!
 - The Music Mini-camp is for the full band and is all about the music. The music for the new show is introduced, warm-ups are reviewed and select stand tunes are taught to the incoming freshmen. The older members are a tremendous help with the teaching process while building camaraderie with the new band members. This camp is held the 3 weekdays following Lake Dallas' graduation. Your student needs to attend this camp a minimum of 2 of the 3 scheduled days. If they cannot attend due to a scheduling conflict, you must contact a director. This can affect their ability to earn a marching spot in the fall.

◆ What is June Drumline Camp?

- This is an additional camp for the percussion group. It is held for one week in June, immediately following the last week of school from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

◆ What is June Color Guard Camp?

- This is an additional camp for the Color Guard. It is held for 5 – 7 days in June. Times are typically mid-afternoon to evening, but can vary.

◆ What is July Drumline Camp?

- This is an additional camp for the percussion group. It is held for one week at the end of July/early August from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. This camp usually coincides with the first few days of Band Camp.

◆ What is the Parent Preview?

- Each year, the band program schedules a special performance of the contest show for our parents. Often, our parent volunteers are not able to see the band perform because of their volunteer duties. We provide this performance so that our parents may see the competition show and spirit show without the distraction of the football crowd or those pesky judges. And because it's local, everyone should attend!

NUTRITION

- It's very important to eat well leading up to and during marching season. It's best to eat lots of healthy foods and to avoid sodas. Soft drinks and juice will dehydrate you. Also avoid drinking milk or dairy products prior to rehearsal (it will curdle in your stomach and make you nauseous).
- Band will burn a lot of calories and deplete your body of nutrients. It's important to keep a healthy diet to keep yourself in the best possible shape. It's not uncommon for your appetite to increase during marching season. Because you are burning more calories, your body craves more fuel.
- Bananas really help with those cramping calf muscles!

HYDRATION

- Make sure that you have your Falcon Band water jug for each and every rehearsal / performance. This is your source for immediate hydration.
- Fill your water jug before you come to rehearsal. Water will be provided at EVERY rehearsal, but are there in case people run out of water. There is not enough for everyone to fill up 5 minutes before practice.
- Add ice to your water jug before rehearsal! The cold water will help keep your body temperature down.
- Water really is necessity. Practice is long and hot, and a little bottle of Ozarka simply won't do.
- Hydrate 24 hours a day! Drinking water just during band camp is not enough. Drink water around the clock!
- A bottle of Gatorade AFTER rehearsal does a body good!
- The only liquid allowed on the field, in the band hall, or during rehearsals is water. Sports drinks designed to replenish nutrients (such as Gatorade) may be consumed during breaks or before/after rehearsals.

GENERAL REMINDERS

- Camp is a place to have fun while learning to play/use your instrument/guard work while you are there.
- Remember to bring everything you need. This is your first experience to learn to be a responsible member of the Falcon Band. Make a checklist so you don't end up in a predicament.
- Be on Time!! In band, to be early is on time, on time is late, and late is unthinkable! The time you are to arrive for rehearsals does not mean walking in the door on time. It means, arrive and be ready with instrument, supplies in hand, and during marching season- out on the practice field. When practice time ends, please be aware there will be last minute instructions, put up instruments, etc. So don't get expect to walk out the door at exactly the time rehearsals are over.
- Take the time to practice and exercise BEFORE camp starts! Get in shape on your instrument and physically, walk, run or just move this summer.
- Learn rehearsal and performance etiquette. Ask your section leader or band director if you're not sure about something. Good etiquette helps things flow smoothly and more professional.
- Try your hardest. You will probably make friends faster and be respected more if you make a decent effort at marching and playing your instrument your instrument well. Don't try to hide that you can't play a part of the music or execute a certain move. Nobody will be able to help you if they don't know you need help. Remember to ask for help.

- Be optimistic. Complaining and bellyaching is extremely annoying and not beneficial. Remember, everyone is hot...everyone is tired...everyone is sore. The pain, heat and fatigue are temporary.

Pain is weakness leaving the body!

- Make friends. Get to know your classmates, your section, whoever is sitting or standing next you in formation, and anybody else that seems interesting. You have band and music already in common. BUT, do not talk when you're setting up drill formation, at attention, or listening to the directors or drum majors talking.
- Learn the show to the best of your ability. Now is the time to practice. Practice as you want to perform. Learn your drill formations, choreography, music, etc.
- Eat healthy foods! Eat more than a pop-tart for breakfast on your way out the door. Marching band is very physical. Also remember to eat lunch. Fried foods are not a good idea, either. If you have to march after lunch...you'll regret that fried food later.
- Get some rest. Now is not the time to stay up all hours of the night playing X-box or texting your friends all night. Band camp can be strenuous, and it's easier if you're well rested.
- Be aware of your place on the student totem pole. We learn more when we keep your mouths closed and our ears open. Everyone should keep in mind that while they may not like to take advice, instruction or orders from other students, band section leaders and drum majors are there to help you get better with your playing and marching. Student leaders should be given the opportunity to earn your respect as they are the highest in student leadership. Listen to your section leaders; they can help you get through marching season.
- Smell good. No one likes to be around you if you smell. Deodorant helps, so please apply some during camp since you will be working up a sweat. Deodorant should travel with you. Take showers!
- Remember, you are here to learn. Don't take it personally when an instructor or section leader corrects you. They are trying to help you be a better performer. If you were already perfect, they wouldn't have to offer correction.
- Be disciplined. Marching Band is very military-esque. We don't talk when the band directors, staff, drum majors, or section leaders are talking. Not only is this disrespectful behavior, but it will distract people around you from what they're saying, which could be very important. When you are asked to stand at attention, you stand at attention. Take it seriously; many skills that you learn in this activity can be applied to everyday life!

APPROPRIATE DRESS

- Throughout most of the season, it is very, very hot. The best dress for practice is shorts and a white t-shirt. Sunglasses and a hat offer even better protection. White tank tops are also acceptable; however, they must adhere to the school's dress code.
- Athletic shoes are a must. Skater shoes, TOMS, converse, flip flops, cowboy boots, and other loose fitting shoes don't have the arch support needed for marching are unacceptable. You may end up with a twisted ankle or knee, which could take you out for the whole season. Is that really worth it?
- Don't even think about wearing jeans to practice. It is frowned upon for a reason. You will quickly find yourself getting overheated. Don't be surprised if you get sent home with an unexcused absence if you show up in jeans!
- Always remember to wear your drill chart. A drill chart is a laminated piece of paper on a lanyard that tells you where your "dots" are, or where you are supposed to be during the show. We can't perfect our drill if you don't have your drill with you at every rehearsal. You'll learn all about it soon!
- Wear sunscreen, period!

LEADERSHIP

- The leadership hierarchy goes like this:
You --> Section Leader --> Drum Major --> Director
- This is the pattern you should follow when you have a question or concern. For example: If you don't know how to finger a note, don't ask Mrs. Kennedy about it! Ask your section leader, first! Or better yet...look it up! It's time be proactive and take responsibility for your success.
- If you aren't sure who to talk to about an issue, ask your section leader. They will either help you themselves, or direct you to the person who can.
- Don't be afraid to talk to the Leadership. They were once freshmen, just like you. Although they are in a leadership position, they are people, too.
- Your section leader has been tasked with helping you on and off the field. They are an extension of the band staff and are trained to help you be the best that you can be. If they ask you to make a change to how you are marching or playing, it's best to listen to them.

DEDICATION AND PREPARATION

- A high level of dedication and motivation is expected from all members.
- This is your freshman show. You're brand new to this program. Look around the room. Find the seniors. They are starting their 4th year of high school commitment to this program. For most, this is their 7th year of band participation. We want to give them the best senior year possible, because one day you'll be a senior, and you'll want the same done for you.
- If you are struggling with any aspect of the drill or your music, we are here to help! Let your section leader know and they will schedule a time to help you through your troubled spots.
- Attend all sectionals, period! Sectionals are designed to move at a slower pace and to help you work out problems, so that we can move quickly during full ensemble rehearsals.
- In addition to the many hours of rehearsal we will undergo, you will be expected to put in **YOUR OWN TIME** to polish your individual part. Remember, the majority of the work done will come during private practice... with a metronome of course.

ATTENDANCE

- Attendance is very important in this program. When you are absent, you create a "hole" in the drill, which makes it difficult for everyone around you.
- We all depend on each other. Everyone contributes to the success of this program and the success of the show.
- That being said, some absences are unavoidable, due to things such as illness or death (your own or a relative). If, for some reason, you need to miss a rehearsal, make sure you communicate this with your directors. All excuses must be e-mailed to Mrs. Kennedy or Mr. Burke by a parent or guardian ahead of time. The sooner you can let them know, the better.
- A word of advice – if you know, in advance, that you are going to miss a rehearsal but you wait until the "day off" to tell a director...don't expect them to be understanding or happy about the news you just gave them. Our directors prepare diligently for each and every rehearsal, and when you are suddenly not there, it could throw off their entire rehearsal plan.

CALENDAR & SCHEDULES

- The calendar for the ENTIRE year is published during the summer. It will be your responsibility to keep up with rehearsal and performance commitments. Mrs. Kennedy will send out weekly newsletters with schedules and reminders of upcoming events. If you don't check your email...you won't know what's going on!
- Sync your smart-phone with the CHARMS calendar. That way you will automatically get any schedule changes and will have your entire band schedule (through next June) at your fingertips.
- www.charmsoffice.com
 - o Group name: lakedallasband
 - o Student password: your LDISD username
- Sign up for all of the Remind groups!
- Absences that occur because "I didn't know" will not be excused.
- Join the band Facebook page and Twitter page to receive last minute information and reminders. Be sure to have updates sent directly to your phone.
 - o Twitter: @LDFalconBand
 - o The Facebook Groups:
 - Lake Dallas Falcon Band
 - Lake Dallas Band Boosters
- Bookmark the band's webpage for additional information. www.ldhsfalconband.org
- Check your email often. This is the main way that information is distributed. "I didn't know" is NEVER an acceptable answer to any question. The information is typically available in several different ways. If you don't know, it's probably because you didn't check for it.

STRETCHES AND CONDITIONING

- We will spend the first part of EVERY rehearsal stretching and conditioning.
- We stretch to insure that all members can execute their drill with minimal risk of injury.
- We condition to insure that all members have the stamina required to perform the marching show at a high level of performance.
- Many of the instruments that we carry are heavy. Prepare yourself by doing conditioning: leg exercises and upper body strengthening exercises throughout the summer. Workout in groups – it makes the time spent more enjoyable!

- Marching a 7 ½ minute show at 152 beats per minute while playing our instruments is very much like running a marathon. We will train in a way that will help build our endurance and stamina. Maintaining a good attitude throughout the process will make the training seem less difficult.

SOCIALIZATION

- Band is a swell place to make great friends. It may be tempting to avoid the upperclassmen or other sections of the band. Step out of your comfort zone and talk to us. We're all pretty cool.
- Attitude is a major part of the band experience. Staying positive at all times is essential. Use the motto: "Fake it until you make it!" You are going to spend a lot of time with your fellow band members and are going to need to learn to love them all. Be kind and respectful to all members of the band, at all times. If you have nothing nice to say, think of something nice!
- Keep a positive attitude towards the band, especially after long, hard rehearsals. We don't talk bad about a particular section, or EVER BAD MOUTH ANYONE ON SOCIAL NETWORKS (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Tumblr, etc). This includes "subtweeting".
- If you need a ride, contact your section leader or ask an upperclassman for help. "I couldn't find a ride" is not an excuse for missing rehearsal or being late. We are always available to help!
- Please show respect for your section leader at all times.
- We are a family<3

PASS-OFFS

- Every member of the LDHS band is required to pass off their marching music. "Passing off" is playing your music in front of a drum major, section leader, captain or director at the expected level of proficiency.
- The show must be played from memory.
- Other pieces of music may be required to be played from memory, at the directors' discretion.
- Don't blow off pass offs. Not only are they graded, but they give the staff a first impression of your dedication to the program.
- Pass-off schedules will be set by the band staff. Awards will be given to individuals and sections who pass-off their music first.

FLIP FOLDERS & INSTRUMENT LYRES

- All wind players and battery members are required to have a flip folder with their name prominently displayed.
- Flip folders are used to hold our stand tunes and will be used almost daily during the marching season.
- You will need to purchase extra "windows". We usually get between 15 & 20 stand tunes each year. Ask your section leader to suggest how many you will need.
- Mrs. Kennedy has "binder rings" that you may purchase to expand your flip folder. They are \$.50 each.
- Organize your flip folder right away and keep it organized. Mrs. Kennedy will publish a list of the order for your folder. This organization makes it easy to find music quickly.
- Wind players only – you will also need to purchase an instrument lyre for your marching horn. These are NOT provided by the band department. This will allow you to hold your music while you play.

UNIFORMS

- We have three basic uniforms that are worn throughout the marching season. They are defined as follows:
 - o Travel Uniform:
 - ✓ Show shirt, khaki shorts, black belt (free of distracting design), white socks, athletic shoes.
 - o Informal Uniform:
 - ✓ Green polo, khaki shorts, black belt (free of distracting design), white socks, athletic shoes.
 - o Formal Uniform:
 - ✓ Full uniform (jacket, bibs, gauntlets, hat), compression shirt, long black socks, marching shoes.
 - ✓ Color Guard: Costume as determined by instructor.
- We will wear the Travel uniform for the band camp parent performance, after contest performances, at pep rallies and anytime we travel long distances. As the weather gets colder, Mrs. Kennedy may allow jeans instead of shorts.
- We will wear the Informal Uniform at the first 2 – 3 football games. The first few games of the season are still relatively HOT and we are allowed to dress in a manner that will allow us to stay as cool as possible.
- We will wear the Formal Uniform once the weather begins to cool down and at all competitive performances. Jackets must stay on in the stands, unless Mrs. Kennedy instructs the entire band to remove their jackets.
- We will not eat or drink (other than water) while in uniform.

- Remember: It is a privilege to wear the Falcon Band uniform! We take great pride in being members of the Falcon Band and our uniform is identified as a symbol of professionalism and excellence. Always treat your uniform with respect, or you may lose the privilege of wearing it.

YOUR FIRST INSPECTION

- Before any football game, contest, or any other band performance, we, as a section, will undergo a full inspection, given by our fearless Section Leader. He/she will 1) make sure you have everything you need for the specific performance, 2) make sure that you are dressed according to the expectation of the program, and 3) make sure that your instruments/sticks/mallets/mallet bag/equipment are in good working condition and complete.
 - Wind players: your instrument must be polished and free of fingerprints. All valves and slides must be oiled/greased and move freely.
 - Front Ensemble: All mallets are accounted for in your assigned mallet bag.
 - Battery: All sticks are taped according to Mr. Burke's specifications.
 - Colorguard: All equipment is taped and stored properly.
- At the end of inspection you will get either a pass 😊 or a fail ☹.
- Failure will result in not performing during the halftime or pre-game of the football game. No one wants to do that, so make sure you have everything at inspection!
- Below is a handy-dandy checklist. Items will vary depending on performance requirements:
 - Show shirt or band polo (informal uniform)/compression shirt (formal uniform)
 - Khaki shorts with **black** belt, free of distracting design (informal uniform)
 - Long black socks (formal uniform)/white socks (informal uniform)
 - Marching shoes (formal uniform)/athletic shoes (informal uniform)
 - No makeup, jewelry or nail polish – at all
 - Hair pulled up above the collar (including gentlemen). No extravagant buns, ladies.
 - Flip folder is organized and all music is accounted for.
 - Gloves, gauntlets, hat and coozie are present and stored properly.
 - Cell phones are to be put away and out of sight—must be off... not set to earthquake.

YOUR FIRST FOOTBALL GAME!

- Your first football game is an exciting thing! We will line up and parade to the stadium. When we arrive in the stadium, we will be “loaded” into the stands and we will immediately warm-up.
- Playing music in the stands is one of the most enjoyable parts of marching band. It's important to have fun, but keep yourself under control at all times.
- Mrs. Kennedy will occasionally call up music for us to play. It's important to pay attention so you know what to play! When you don't know what to play, or play the wrong thing, it makes the entire band look bad.
- During the second quarter, we will be dismissed to warm-up for our performance. This is a time for us to prepare and focus—not to socialize with our friends. Talking is prohibited during this time.
- At halftime, we will march onto the field and perform our show! The entire show will probably not be ready, and we will play the portions we have prepared. Stay focused and march your heart out! **PRO TIP: Make sure your plume isn't on backwards.**
- After half time, we will go back into the stands and play some more music. Once again, enjoy yourselves, but don't go too crazy!
- After the game, we will march back into the band hall (home games) and have a short meeting. Members will not be allowed to leave until the end of announcements and the dismissal.
- Food or drink (other than water) is not permitted in the stands or when we are in uniform.
- Water (in abundance) will be provided while in the stands. Students will receive a “coozie” before the first game, which will be required for outdoor performances. Bottled water will be passed out during the first quarter, which can be refilled as needed throughout the game.
- The band boosters provide an opportunity for members to purchase “game night meals” for those who are unable to go home between school and call time.
- Congratulations, you have just completed your first football game!

Hopefully, these tips and pointers will be enough to get everyone through band camp and their first football game. You'll be a veteran in no time. High school goes by quickly, so enjoy every second of this wonderful program.

Welcome to the Pride of Falcon Land...the LDHS Falcon Marching Band!

Specifically for the Front Ensemble members...

NUTRITION

- The Front Ensemble is not as heavily active or exposed to the elements as the rest of the members of the band. However, it is still important to eat right. During the summer months, we will be outside soaking up the sun, along with the other members of the band.

HYDRATION

- At the beginning of each summer rehearsal, the Front Ensemble will take part in stretching and conditioning with the full band. You must stay hydrated in order to rehearse effectively (as well as prevent major health issues such as heat stroke or dehydration).
- Bring your band issued water jug to every rehearsal...even if we are indoors. This will allow you to have water at all times.

APPROPRIATE DRESS

- As mentioned before we will be outside... during the summer... in Texas. You will want to dress in comfortable clothes that help you keep cool (white t-shirts are required by all) and allow a full range of motion. Use common sense when choosing dress for rehearsal.
- NO JEANS FOR OUTSIDE REHEARSAL, WHATSOEVER...NO MATTER WHAT.
- There may be times where we are allowed to rehearse in a haven of cold air. On such occasions you are encouraged to bring a light jacket, hoodie or sweats; you will feel as if you are rehearsing in a meat locker, after several hours.

DEDICATION

- In addition to your responsibilities of the full band, as a member of the drumline, you will also have separate obligations, within the Front Ensemble. This includes extra summer camps, extra rehearsals, and even separate competitions (Lewisville Drumline Competition).

PASS-OFFS

- Like the other sections of the band, the Front Ensemble will be required to PASS-OFF all show music. Mr. Burke will assign further details.

FIRST FOOTBALL GAME

- As a member of the Front Ensemble, you will be required to show up AT LEAST 30 minutes early to move our vast and ever expanding Front Ensemble to the football field. We will store all equipment in a designated location.
- Inspection will follow. Be prepared, and have all of your stuff together. When we will line up in the front of the band hall, talking is prohibited.
- **Mallet bag with all mallets will be kept with you at all times. This is your responsibility.**
- As we parade to the stadium, it is the Front Ensemble's responsibility to carry all stands and hat boxes for the battery members. We also have these really cool carts that we get to pull!
- The Front Ensemble has the pleasure of dancing in the stands and providing morale. **It is required to dance during the fight song.** Dance lessons available upon request.
- Before halftime, the percussionists will leave the stands to warm-up. We will find a nice area in the stadium to set up. This is a time to prepare and focus ourselves for our performance.
- After performing, instructions will be provided regarding storage of equipment. Always pay attention for instructions, and move with a purpose.

FRONT ENSEMBLE NOTES

- Communication is key to a successful ensemble. Make sure all members have contact information, in case you need to be contacted. Much of our communication will be through phone in the form of text. Keep an eye out for updates on the schedule. If ever confused, simply contact an upperclassman.
- Throughout the summer months we will be learning four mallet technique. In the beginning of the learning process, it will hurt. Your hands are not used to constant contact with the mallets in the ways that will be required for four mallet grip. Skin will be rubbed off and you may bleed. Please bring band-aids, as this will reduce the amount of pain you will endure.
- When new concepts are taught, it is imperative that you perfect these concepts during individual practice time. We do not waste valuable rehearsal time relearning concepts.
- Practice is the key to success in band in general, but especially in the Drumline. Our success will be the direct result of everyone's individual efforts.

- Know all 12 major scales before summer rehearsals begin, and have a basic understanding of minor scales. We ask this so we will not have to focus so much on the basics and may move on to more in depth teachings.
- In the Front Ensemble, we are exposed to a lot of music theory and scale work. The more you know coming in, the easier it will come to you. Please take the initiative.
- In the Front Ensemble, we have a lot of equipment to move. Before rehearsal make sure to arrive far enough ahead of schedule to move your own instruments. Be a minimum of 20 minutes early. The more equipment you have to move, the more time you should give yourself. Have all your equipment ready to go by the rehearsal's start time. Members who are not set up and ready to play at the assigned start time will be considered tardy, which will adversely affect your grade.
- **YOUR INSTRUMENTS ARE YOUR OWN RESPONSIBILITY. DO NOT EXPECT ANYONE TO MOVE YOUR INSTRUMENTS FOR YOU, IF YOU ARE NOT THERE.**
- The instruments and mallets are extremely expensive. If you treat the equipment poorly, you will be subject to disciplinary action. If you break any of the equipment, including mallets or mallet bags, you will pay for them to be replaced.

Specifically for the Battery members...

- You will need to purchase multiple rolls of WHITE electrical tape. This is not provided by the program. Sticks will be re-taped for EVERY performance.
- Make sure that you have extra pairs of sticks/mallets. You never know when one will break.
- EAR PLUGS – You will need earplugs for inside rehearsals. Your hearing is too important. The squishy ones from Wal-Mart are sufficient.
- Drums will need to be polished before every inspection. This takes quite a bit of time. Plan to arrive early. You will need paper towels and window cleaner.
- Also – allow extra time to tape your sticks before each inspection. Mr. Burke will explain how he wants this to be accomplished.

Specifically for the Color Guard members...

- Bandanas are great for keeping the sweat out of your eyes.
- You will need large quantities of black electrical tape. Your flags will frequently need to be re-taped.
- Keep your nails trimmed. Long nails or “fake” nails are a bad idea!
- No rings during rehearsals. The equipment will bend or flatten them.
- Practice, practice, practice. There is NO WAY to perfect everything if you don't! There simply isn't enough time.