



## ***Peters Township HS Marching Band***

**121 Rolling Hills Drive, McMurray, PA 15317**

Dear Potential Drum Major Candidates,

If you are reading this letter, you are considering auditioning for a prestigious role in a High School Marching Band. This year's audition will be slightly different than past years. In this packet, you will find this cover letter, a signature page, audition requirements and song links for the audition. Please read through the following information which was taken straight from the Marching Band Handbook:

“Candidates for the position of a drum major are students who possess and have demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities. They must be able to lead the band through commands and conduct on and off the field at any band function. All drum major candidates should understand that they have to manage the group when needed as well. Candidates for a drum major position should have the highest standards for performance, attitude, and ideals as well as be respected by their peers for their leadership and responsibility. These students are selected through an audition process. The audition will be judged not only by the Band Director, other staff but also an outside panel of judges.”

A drum major is required to attend every performance and rehearsal in its entirety. Being a drum major bears heavy responsibility as you hold the weight of the band on your shoulders and are responsible for the actions of every band member. Drum majors do not have the option of excused absences.

***Drum Major candidates must try out Every Year regardless of their grade level or past experience.***

If you have questions at any time, please do not hesitate to reach out. If you would like assistance in your preparation, you should reach out to Mr. Young to set up a time to meet.

Sincerely,

Mr. Young ~ Director of Bands



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### **Drum Major Eligibility Requirements and Expectations 2024-2025 Season**

Below, you will find all of the eligibility requirements.

1. Be a current member of the Peters Township High School Marching Band with at least two years of marching experience.
2. Have at least a 3.50 quality Grade Point Average (this will be verified by the guidance office).
3. MUST be enrolled in a High School Band program class (Wind Symphony or Jazz Band) for the ENTIRE Year.
4. Must be enrolled at Peters Township High School.
5. Must turn in all forms as well as audition materials prior to the audition date.

Below, you will find all of the expectations for this prestigious role.

1. Attend a summer Drum Major camp. The Director will discuss options with you.
2. Be musically proficient at your primary instrument with the ability to demonstrate on the instrument if necessary.
3. Be visually proficient at all commands and movements such that you could teach them.
4. Carry a Marching Band binder. This binder should have copies of all music scores and drill charts with sheet protectors. They should be marked with appropriate set numbers, patterns, cues, etc. You should also carry pencils and highlighters at all times.
5. Serve as a positive role model for the band with great character, behavior, work ethic and discipline.
6. Be able to participate in staff meetings with maturity.



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## **Audition Requirements**

1. This audition will be occurring both virtually and in person this school year.
2. For the interview and audition process, you will schedule an interview on Thursday, May 2nd. Interview sign ups will be available on the Band App on Monday April 22nd.
3. For the audition process, you will need to share with the director a Google Drive folder by Wednesday, May 1st. In this Google Drive folder, you will need to include the following items:
  - a. 1 Command Video
  - b. 3 Conducting Videos
  - c. Drum Major Essay
4. For the command process, you must go through the following commands. You may call the commands out and complete them yourself or utilize a family member to complete the commands. This video is to hear your ability to make verbal commands.
  - a. Attention
  - b. Parade Rest
  - c. Band Horns Up and Down
  - d. Mark Time, Forward and Backward March, Halt
  - e. Left and Right Face
5. Conduct through 3 pieces. Recordings for selected pieces are included below.
  - a. Your Selection (**Must choose your selection and have it approved by Friday April 12th by Mr. Young**)
  - b. Required Selection <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nUXDLQwAjIo>
  - c. Star Spangled Banner <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCCjvSjwJwk>
6. Write an essay entitled: “Why would I be the best candidate for Drum Major?” The essay must be typed, MLA Format, 12 point font, double spaced, and at least 350 words.
7. Each candidate will be interviewed. Responses to questions will reveal attitude, enthusiasm, communication skills, emotional maturity, and knowledge of related matters.
8. Remember, everything needs to be turned in by Wednesday, May 1st by 11:59 Pm. If you have any questions at any time, you can reach out to Mr. Young through email.



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## **Peters Township High School** **Marching Band Drum Major Contract**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Instrument \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level (As of Fall 2024) \_\_\_\_\_ Current GPA \_\_\_\_\_ as of April 1st

It is understood that if I am selected to be Drum Major, I will be expected to:

- Abide by all rules and regulations set forth by Peters Township High School.
- Support the Band Director and other Staff with the utmost dedication, devotion, and loyalty.
- Maintain a strong dedication to the entire band program.
- Not miss any rehearsal, performance, or function of the band except for severe illness or death in the family.
- Uphold the highest possible standards as set for all band members.
- Participate in all special band events (pep band, special performances, spring trips, etc.)
- Demonstrate the highest level of musicianship throughout the entire year.

I agree to follow the above policies and the policies of the marching band outlined in the Marching Band Handbook. I understand that failure to do so may result in my removal from the leadership position bestowed upon me.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I understand to help my student follow the above policies and the policies of the marching band.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_