

Peters Township Fighting Indians Marching Band



2024-25 Drumline

Welcome, Students and Parents of the Peters Township Marching Band 2024-25 Drumline!

We're excited for another rewarding Marching Band experience! 2023-24 was a dream season for the Peters Township Music Program. The new band staff, students, parents, and chaperones created a fun atmosphere and high-quality musical entertainment. The Football Team's success kept the Marching Band active well into December, at a time when the Music Program is usually focused on the holiday concerts. 2024 then began with another great *Meatballs and Music* event followed by the Music Program's February trip to Disney. Though the current school year is still in full swing, we're already actively preparing for the 2024-25 Marching Band season.

Marching Band and Drumline are fun! While everyone is learning and becoming an even stronger musician, student safety is always top priority. I will continue to reinforce safety through *An Ounce of Prevention* and having an *Awareness* of some core Safety principles:

- Remaining properly hydrated
- Hearing protection
- Hand lotion, comfy shoes, dry socks and proper stick grip to prevent blisters or dry skin
- Sun protection
- Watching where you're walking (don't trip, drums can impede your vision)

The Drumline is a team, and every student plays an important role. We will all enjoy a supportive learning environment that is free from preferential treatment, ridicule, or embarrassment.

I look forward to working with you all and helping the entire Drumline grow musically, while having fun and creating entertaining music together.

Rob Throckmorton

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2024-25 PTMB Drumline Configuration

How many of each Instrument?

The 24-25 season provides the opportunity for stronger balance in the Drumline. Our new structure will include at least 2 Cymbal players (having none in 23-24 was a large void). Four Seniors are moving on while at least a half dozen new Drumline members may be coming on board. If we grow, there also may be a larger Frontline (which would enable both Mallets AND Auxiliary Percussion).

Since the number of students and skills levels are not yet known, the exact configuration of the Drumline is not yet able to be determined. Here are some initial thoughts on instrumentation:

Position	2023-24 Structure	Possible Structure for 2024-25
Snare Drum	6	between 4 and 6
Tenors	3	either 2 or 3
Bass Drums	5	either 4 or 5
Cymbals	0	at least 2
Front Line (Mallets & Auxiliary)	4	may exceed 4

Some Key Dates for Drumline and Marching Band

Please plan for the KEY Drumline dates and times below. This is not an all-inclusive list, but it is the current Drumline plan through early August.

Drumline Clinic and Audition Prep

Tue, Wed & Thur, April 23, 24 & 25 6 – 8 pm High School Band Room

Drumline Auditions and Drumline Leadership Interviews

Saturday, April 27 9am – 12 noon High School Band Room

Mini-Camp (Entire Band)

Mon, June 3 6 – 8pm High School

Pre-Camp (Drumline and Color Guard)

Mon, Tue & Wed, July 22, 23 & 24 6 – 9 pm High School

Pre-Camp (Entire Band)

Thur & Fri, July 25 & 26 6 – 9 pm High School

Away Camp (Entire Band)

Sun, July 28 - Fri, Aug 2 tbd Penn West (Cal U)

Home Camp (Entire Band)

Mon, Aug 5 5 – 9 pm High School

The Audition

Deep breath... There's no need for restless or sleepless nights! Prepare and be yourself. Drumline Auditions are a fresh start! All positions in the Drumline are available. Previous assignments are not a guarantee for the same assignment. Students will provide their individual assignment requests. Other key factors considered for Drumline assignments include Merit (Skill) and the needs of the Drumline and Marching Band. There are no Promotions or Demotions. This specifically means that moving from Tenors to Snare (for example) is not a Promotion, and moving from Snare to anything else is not a Demotion.

Auditions will be conducted by Rob Throckmorton and David Young, and will be performed on either a Practice Pad or a Snare Drum. Each Audition is planned for around five minutes and will include the three main parts:

1 Common Marching Rudiments

During the Audition, students will be given the opportunity to perform a sampling of the following common Rudiments:

- 5- and 9- Stroke Rolls
- Flams Flam Taps Flam Accents Swiss Triplets
- Drags Ratamacues
- Paradiddles Double Paradiddles Paradiddle Diddles

2 and 3 Reading Music

The Music Reading portion of the Audition will include both Sight Reading and a Prepared Piece (details on next page).

While performing the above three components of the Audition, other details that will be observed and evaluated will include:

- Stick Control - observation of overall Drum Technique (details such as grip, fulcrum, stroke height, stroke angle and the dexterity of both hands)
- Use of common Dynamics - details such as volume, tempo, and accents
- Sense of Time - maintaining a consistent Tempo

The Prepared Piece

The prepared piece that each student will play for the Audition is a new Drumline Warm-Up exercise titled *Carson's Lunch*. The prepared piece can be played at any tempo 92 BPM or faster.

Students are able to play the entire piece for the audition, however here are the specific Audition requirements:

- Cymbals and Bass Drum - Students that feel they are best suited for Cymbals and Bass Drum are only required to play the first five lines of *Carson's Lunch*.
- Tenor Drums and Snare Drum - Students that want to be considered for Tenors and Snare Drum will play *Carson's Lunch* in its entirety.

What grip should I use?

- Traditional Grip - All students can choose to use Traditional Grip, however, only those wanting to be considered for Snare Drum are required to use Traditional Grip for the entirety of the Audition.
- Matched Grip may be used by all students other than those wanting to be considered for Snare Drum.

*If you want to improve, you have to practice.
There are no shortcuts.*

Where Do You Get Your Musical Inspiration?

Rob's common question: Who is your favorite Drummer?

Student's common answer: I don't have one.

Rob's follow up question: Okay, what music do you listen to?

Student's common answer: I listen to what my parents listen to in the car.

Rob's question #3: Okay, hopefully your family has good taste. What bands or specific songs do you like?

Student's common answer: Ummm...

The Music that a person is exposed to, especially in the formative years of one's youth, plays a key role in a person's musical growth. Part of our collective growth will include Drumline Members being 'quizzed' on expected music knowledge and fun trivia. Students will likewise be introduced to great music designed to pique their musical interest and curiosity. Buckle up, and get ready to grow...

'Quiz' #1 (Hmmm, wonder if we'll discuss this in the April Drumline Clinics?)

Great Musicians and Drummers can come from anywhere, and there is plenty of local musical greatness! What renowned Drummer, widely regarded as perhaps the best on our planet, was born in Republic, PA, and is a graduate of Brownsville High School?

Drumline 24-25 - Top 10 Rules to Live By

1. Safety – Water, Smart Shoes, Dry Socks, SPF and Hand Lotion are your best friends, especially at Band Camp!
2. Marching is not the time to wear your flip-flops, Crocs or Sandals. Listen to Marge Simpson and wear sensible shoes. Dry socks too.
3. Someone will be better than you, and you will be a stronger player than someone else. This doesn't matter! It's not a competition! We're a TEAM, and we will all learn, grow, and create great music together!
4. Nobody should ever have to wait on you. Be on time, every time.
5. Good enough is not good enough. If you're gonna do something, you might as well do it right.
6. 'I'm not good enough' or 'I can't do it' should never cross your mind.
7. Being in a higher grade doesn't mean that you're better. We're all humble and we're equal team players on the marching field.
8. Step off when you're supposed to step off.
9. Perhaps we have two ears and one mouth for a reason. Listening is a critical trait for musicians.
10. Help your fellow Drumline members.