

# Patriot High School Marching Band Drumline Audition Information

Hi everyone,

Thank you for your interest in the Patriot High School Marching Band Drumline. My name is Anthony Rondinelli and I will be your percussion instructor for the 2019 season.

To give some background I performed in the Battlefield High School marching band during my time in high school and more recently the Cavalier Marching Band at the University of Virginia where I attended college. Playing percussion in marching band is a passion of mine and I am excited to hopefully pass on what I have learned from my eight years participating in the activity.

I wanted to provide a few details that will be helpful to those new or returning.

## **When and Where:**

Spring Training Practices will be held in the Patriot High School Band Room, practices are:

March 11th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm

March 25th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm

April 8th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm

April 22nd from 6:00 to 8:00pm

Auditions for the 2019 Patriot High School Drumline will be:

April 29th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm

\*Returning members please arrive early (5:45pm) to help set-up equipment for new players\*

## **What to Bring:**

- Music:
  - New exercises will be posted prior to the start of Spring Training in the Student Resources section of the PBSO website: [www.patriotbandsupport.org](http://www.patriotbandsupport.org)
- Marching Snare or Marching Tenor Drumsticks (for those interested in auditioning on Snare or Tenor)
- Water
- **Hearing protection (in-ear protection is required for all rehearsals)**
  - In the past one pair of earplugs has been provided by the school so one pair should be provided for you
  - If you are interested in purchasing an alternative to what the school provides, I have been using the Surefire EP4 Sonic Defenders Plus for the past 6 years and have found them to work well for marching percussion
    - They are \$14.95 on their website: <https://www.surefire.com/ep4-sonic-defenders-plus.html>
- A pen or pencil for those interested in auditioning on Snare or Tenor
- A highlighter for those interested in auditioning on Bass drum

- A 3 ring binder with letter sheet protectors (Target has a 100-pack of these sheet protectors (which should be plenty) for \$6.79)

## **Additional Information**

### Auditioning

For those new to this process the Spring Training Practices are meant to serve as an introduction to marching percussion. At the beginning and throughout practice I will take some time to talk about proper playing technique and tips to help improve marching or sight-reading. Ideally, during these practices you will have time to play the instrument you are considering auditioning for and I will provide feedback to help you have a successful and stress-free audition come April 29th.

As someone who has been through many auditions it is my goal to place everyone on an instrument that they can enjoy playing throughout the season. Speaking from personal experience it is not fun to take on more than you are ready for and I will do my best to make sure no one feels overwhelmed at any point during the season. However, you should know that drumline is demanding; we must learn and memorize more music than other players in the band and in contrast to other instruments, most of the technique you may learn in sit-down band is not transferable to marching percussion. Because of this we need more time to practice and will all have to put in more effort to be successful. Again, from personal experience, I will say the harder you work at something the more meaningful and beneficial it is to you in the long run.

This being said I hope that by the end of the Spring Training Practices the audition is merely a formality and everyone is fairly certain and about what instrument they will be playing for the 2019 season.

I recognize that this is a different process from the rest of marching band but drumline is unique in that there is a scarcity of instruments, that's why demand for us is so high! I took a few Economics classes in College... For those who are new, a typical drumline consists of Snare drums, Bass drums, Tenor drums (or quads), and Cymbals. Each has its own specific technique and no one sub-section is more important than the other, all instruments are necessary to have an effective drumline.

### Rehearsal Etiquette

After years of playing in drumline, and not rehearsing responsibly (without hearing protection), I have lost some of my hearing. Communication is an important part of teaching (as I have learned) and in order for us to have productive practices and me to be able to communicate to everyone reliably we will need to establish a rehearsal etiquette.

When a rehearsal starts, I will typically provide some initial information about what we will be doing; for example what warm-up we will play, what stick height we will be using for the warm-up, sections of music to be played or dynamic/technique information. During this time I would ask that everyone remain silent, don't worry we'll be making a lot of noise after, so everyone can hear instructions. This prevents frustration and confusion on both of our parts.

We will end our practices ten minutes early, allowing everyone enough time to put their instruments away and collect their belongings.

Thank you!

I realize this is a lot of information to absorb, I am looking forward to the coming season and hope that you are as well. If you have any additional questions regarding marching band, please refer to the Patriot High School Marching Band handbook located on the PBSO site or reach out to Mr. Ramsey or myself.