

HIGHLANDER MARCHING BAND SECTION LEADER/DRUM MAJOR APPLICATION

Eligibility: To be eligible for the position of section leader, applicants must be an incoming sophomore or older, a member of the Marching Band at least one year at BHS, and in good standing with the director. Section leader selection is determined by the band director with possible input from the marching band staff. Generally, each section has a section leader; however, in cases where sections are too small or contain no interested/eligible candidates, small sections may be combined under a single leader. In a larger section, co-leaders may be appointed.

To be eligible for the position of drum major, a student must be an incoming junior or senior, have completed at least two full years in the Highlander Band, and must complete the section leader selection process.

The Role of the Section Leader: Section Leaders comprise a crucial element of the success of the marching band. These students are leaders “in the trenches,” working directly with students to ensure their success in all aspects of band membership. Section Leaders must be servant leaders, willing to work towards the betterment of our group without the expectation of personal acknowledgement.

Desirable qualities in a Section Leader candidate include:

- The Section Leader must be willing to accept and foster good relationships with a wide variety of personalities. No member of a section can be given up on or ignored.
- The Section Leader should be able to execute instructions from the staff or drum major in a manner consistent with the expectations of the program.
- A strong dedication to the band program by the individual is vital.
- The individual must be socially mature in all cases. You must have a thick skin and be able to separate personal conflicts from section relationships.
- The individual’s musical ability should be of the highest level.
- The Section Leader should have a history of dependability.
- Exhibiting a good attitude and encouraging good morale within the band is a significant responsibility of the Section Leader.
- The Section Leader must be enthusiastic in his/her dealings with the section and others section leaders.
- The Section Leader accepts responsibility for the performance and behavior of the section.

Duties of the Section Leader

At Rehearsals:

- Arrives at rehearsals early and is ready to welcome members and take attendance.
- Consults with drum major/director prior to each rehearsal for instructions concerning the rehearsal plan.
- Assumes responsibility for section attendance reporting.
- Leads (or assists) their section through musical/physical warm-up routines when necessary.
- Assists section members in setting and cleaning drill spots.
- Knows drill and music for their section.
- Assists individual section members with music learning/memorization.
- Is aware of progress of all section members regarding music and drill knowledge
- Maintains discipline at all times, within section and in general field area.
- Is prepared to run sectional rehearsals when needed.

At Performances:

- Ensures that their section is assembled in the proper formation at the designated time and place.
- Ensures that all section members are equipped for performance (equipment, music, uniform, etc.)
- At football games, makes sure that section is seated together in the proper area and is ready to play when needed.
- Understands the fundamentals of field etiquette.
- Is an exemplary model at all times in dress, leadership, punctuality, alertness, precise marching & esprit de corps both in and out of rehearsal.

Role of the Drum Major: The drum majors are the chief student leaders of the band. They command the band during performances and, at times, during rehearsal. They are often the first students to arrive and the last to leave, working tirelessly to ensure the success of the group. They must master the music in our repertoire in order to effectively lead our ensemble. In short, they must be exemplars of all that a Highlander Band member and leader are to be.

Duties of the Drum Major

- Meet all standards listed above for section leaders
- Prepare and conduct all repertoire
- Assist in setting up and tearing down rehearsal areas
- Lead marching basics and stretching
- Attend all band events, both in season and out of season
- Register for and attend the Symphonic or Concert Band
- Attend a drum major camp of the director's choosing

Drum Major Audition Requirements

- Conduct the Star Spangled Banner, Alma Mater, and Scotland the Brave with a small ensemble.
- Command a group of students using the following commands: parade rest, attention, horns up, horns down.
- Participate in all requirements to be considered as a section leader.
- Participate in an interview

Student Leadership Overview

Before applying for a student leadership position, please consider the following:

1. Leadership is a position of service to the organization and your peers. It is the acceptance of significant responsibilities and extra work, the commitment to extra time, and the decision to demonstrate selflessness at all times.

If you want to be a student leader to gain recognition for yourself, you should reconsider applying. When you assume a leadership position, the band as a whole becomes your priority.

Many young people see a leadership position as the chance to be in charge, to tell others what to do, to delegate work, and to put themselves in a posture of authority. Nothing could be further from the truth. The essence of an effective leader lies in the student's ability to serve others, to create success for the people in the organization. It is the opportunity to give, to contribute, to roll up one's sleeves and begin moving in a positive direction. Whether it is straightening the chairs, putting the stands away, creating a colorful bulletin board, or working with someone on a musical passage, the leader is the person who does: "What needs to be done, when it needs to be done, whether he/she wants to do it or not, without asking anyone." – Tim Lautzenheiser

2. Leaders are expected to be impartial to all band members. The obvious example of this is the expectation that leaders will not give preferential treatment to their friends, or people they like. More difficult is the expectation that leaders will reach out to those students with whom they may have personality conflicts as well as those students who tend to get lost or blend in with the crowd. This is a continuous process that is practiced on and off the field, in season and out of season.
3. To be selected as a student leader, a candidate must have demonstrated the ability to accept criticism, and to be able to carry out instructions in a manner consistent with the expectations of the staff.
4. Student leaders are expected to be at all rehearsals and performances with no conflicts other than severe illness or significant family events (weddings, funerals, etc.). Leaders are also expected to attend scheduled leadership workshops and meetings.
5. Student leaders will be the first to arrive at rehearsals and performances and the last to leave.
6. Student leaders must demonstrate competence on their instrument/equipment as well as in marching technique. It is the leader's job to make sure all section members know their music/routine work and drill. Section leaders accept responsibility for their section member's progress and achievements.
7. Student leaders are expected to demonstrate and foster leadership on and off the field. It is expected that you will be a good custodian of the band's reputation in social situations as well as the performance/rehearsal environment - in other words, that you will lead by example as well as actively mentoring other members who may be behaving in an inappropriate manner, whether in the stands, at rehearsals, or anywhere else.

Student Leadership Application

Name: _____

Grade (next year): _____

Years in marching band: _____

What leadership have you already brought to the band (i.e. tell me what you have done to earn this position):

Have you held a leadership position in any organization in the past? If yes, please explain.

What plans do you have for your section for this upcoming season? Goals?

STUDENT LEADER COMMITMENT

By returning this application you are showing that you understand what will be expected of you should you be selected as a Student Leader. A Student Leader is expected to be at all rehearsals. There are no "free days" for the Student Leader; he/she is working all the time. You will be held to a much higher standard than you have ever been held to before. You will be asked to make numerous sacrifices for the good for the band program and your charges. Do not return this application unless you have absolutely no hesitation about meeting these requirements.

It is understood that if I am selected as a Student Leader, I will be expected to:

1. Support the band director and other staff members with the utmost dedication, devotion, and loyalty.
2. Maintain a strong dedication to the entire band program.
3. Not miss any rehearsals, performances, or functions of the band except for severe illness or death in the family.
4. Uphold the highest possible standards as set for all band members.
5. Participate in all special band events (pep band, special performances, etc.)
6. Demonstrate the highest level of musicianship throughout the entire year.
7. If not chosen, I will assume my regular role in the band and give full cooperation to the other members selected and the director.

Student Name: _____ Signature: _____

Student Email: _____

It is imperative that parent(s) of potential student leaders understand the level of commitment required from their child should they be selected as a Section Leader. Thus, we ask that parents sign below, acknowledging their reading of the attached material and supporting their child's application.

Parent Signature: _____

This application, along with two letters of recommendation, is due back to the director by the end of April. Please note that one letter should be from a teacher who has observed you in an **ACADEMIC** setting; the second should be from a teacher who has observed you in a **LEADERSHIP/ACTIVITY** setting.

All Applicants are expected to attend the leadership workshop/teambuilding session to be scheduled in early April. Additionally, candidates for drum major will be asked to attend an audition session where they will be asked to conduct the Star Spangled Banner, the Alma Mater and Scotland the Brave, as well as give commands. Drum Major candidates will be evaluated by outside adjudicators, as well as BWSD staff.

There will be a parent meeting for all drum major candidates and their parents prior to the auditions.

BALDWIN HIGHLANDER MARCHING BAND
STUDENT LEADERSHIP APPLICATION
TEACHER RECOMMENDATION FORM

THIS SECTION COMPLETED BY STUDENT

Please give this form to a current or retired teacher who has observed you in an **ACADEMIC** setting. Please include an envelope, labeled with your name, when you present this form to your chosen teacher.

Applicant Name: _____ Current Grade: _____

THIS SECTION COMPLETED BY TEACHER

The above named student is applying to be a member of the student leadership team in the Baldwin High School Band program. Please evaluate the student as objectively as possible. Your time and assistance are greatly appreciated!

1. Please rate the applicant in each of the following areas. Circle the appropriate number (5 being the highest possible score and 1 being the lowest).

Creativity	1	2	3	4	5
Ability to accept criticism	1	2	3	4	5
Motivation/Initiative	1	2	3	4	5
Reliability	1	2	3	4	5
Communication Skills	1	2	3	4	5
OVERALL	1	2	3	4	5

2. Optional: Please include any additional comments, if desired, to expand or qualify your appraisal of the applicant:

Teacher's Name (print): _____

Teacher's Signature: _____

*Please place in the envelope provided and sign over the seal.
Completed forms can be returned to students or placed in Mr. Steele's mailbox.
Thank you!*

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