

# RLB DRUM MAJOR CRITERIA and APPLICATION

**ELIGIBILITY:** To be eligible for Drum Major, applicant must be an incoming Junior or Senior, a *year-round* member of the Band Program at Lockhart, adhere to all LISD policies, and be in good standing with the Band Directors.

**ESSENTIAL PHILOSOPHY:** If you cannot accept the reality that you may not be chosen, then you should not tryout for this position. Your intentions must be for the good of the band, not for yourself.

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## TRYOUT DATES ARE POSTED ON *CHARMS* AND BAND WEB SITE

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### TRYOUT PROCESS

1. Complete Application and submit by deadline
  2. Attend mandatory training sessions as indicated by director(s)
  3. Pass a Pre-tryout (no later than 2 days prior to official tryout) that demonstrates reasonable achievement/progress of requirements
  4. Tryout on the designated day (all candidates present)
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### REQUIREMENTS TO DEMONSTRATE:

- All facets of marching, including but not limited to marking time, 8-to-5 step (forward and backward), slides, flanks, and turns.
- Conducting – Clear beat patterns: 2,3,4,5; a recording will be provided for the applicant to practice with and conduct to at the tryout. Applicant must demonstrate the ability to cue, keep accurate time, and use a beat pattern that can be seen and understood.
- A salute of your own creation. Keep it simple and short...you are not the show, the band is...*Always remember that.*
- Vocal Commands, including but not limited to: Attention, Parade Rest, Mark Time, Halt, Horns Up and Down, Counted Turns. Voice projection and clarity are important factors.

**THE ROLE OF THE DRUM MAJOR:** This person is a leader on the field. The drum major exemplifies the spirit, dignity, and bearing of the entire band, and therefore should possess these qualities to the highest degree.

### DESIRABLE QUALITIES OF A DRUM MAJOR

- Display reasoning skills, and have the capability to think quickly under pressure.
- Exhibit a strong dedication to the band program.
- Demonstrate the highest level of musical ability.
- Outstanding leadership qualities should be evident long before becoming drum major.
- Possess a good personality that gets along well with others.
- Candidate is very dependable.
- The Drum Major is placed in a prominent position and is subject to spectator criticism and therefore should "look" the part at all times.
- Exhibit a good attitude that encourages positive morale within the band.
- Enthusiasm toward others in the band.
- Willingness to take responsibility for any conduct on the field, in the stands, or at contest/festival sites.

## **DUTIES OF THE DRUM MAJOR INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:**

### **MARCHING REHEARSALS**

- Consults with directors prior to each rehearsal for instructions
- Assist/Lead the band through a warm up routine
- Assists directors in the teaching of marching drills
- Help individual band members with difficult sections of the drill when problems arise
- Acts as proper example for difficult maneuvers
- Maintains discipline at all times

### **MUSIC REHEARSALS**

- Consult with director prior to each rehearsal and make every attempt to be thoroughly acquainted with all aspects of the music to be rehearsed, including conducting techniques and possible problems that may be encountered in rehearsal or performance
- Prepare band hall for music rehearsal (set-up, equipment, etc.)
- Assist with warm-up routine
- Follow the scores during rehearsals
- Be prepared to take charge of specific groups for sectional rehearsals

### **PERFORMANCE**

- Take responsibility for assembling the band in the proper formation at the pre-designated time and place
- Take attendance and assist with general inspection
- Be responsible for moving the band from one area to another in an orderly fashion
- At football games, assemble the band in a pre-determined formation, and that order is maintained
- Conduct the band when they play pep tunes in the stands or at pep rallies
- Prior to a parade, become familiar with the parade route and be aware of the location of the reviewing stand
- Understand the fundamentals of military etiquette, and be prepared to render the proper salute when necessary
- Know when to bring the band and auxiliary units to attention
- Give all the commands during performances
- Conduct and control all aspects of the field show
- Set the perfect example at all times in dress code, leadership, punctuality, alertness, precise marching, & esprit de corps

### **TRAINING SESSIONS**

During the final weeks of the school year, organize drum major training sessions to help prepare prospective candidates for Drum Major tryouts. Discuss your experiences, both good and bad, and help them understand the requirements of the position.

## APPLICATION FOR DRUM MAJOR POSITION

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

Grade (next year) \_\_\_\_\_ Years in Band (count Junior High) \_\_\_\_\_

*Attach a separate sheet for any of these questions, if appropriate*

1. Please list your conducting experiences:

2. What leadership skills have you **already** brought to the Band?

3. Have you held a leadership position in any organization (including Band) before? (If yes, please elaborate):

4. Have you ever missed a Band rehearsal or performance, excused or unexcused? (If yes, please elaborate):

5. What plans do you have for the future of our Band, how can they be implemented, and what do you see as their long-term results?

**Acquire FIVE references from teachers and/or administrators that support your application for Drum Major.**

NAME and SIGNATURE	POSITION	Grade in Class
1.		
Comments:		
2.		
Comments:		
3.		
Comments:		
4.		
Comments:		
5.		
Comments:		

*By returning this application you are stating that you understand and agree to the expectations for the position. A Drum Major is not just expected but **REQUIRED** to be at all rehearsals. There are no “free days” for the Drum Major; he/she is working all the time. You will be held accountable to a higher standard that demands numerous sacrifices for the good of the band program. **Do not return this application unless you have absolutely no hesitations about the responsibilities of this position.***

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

- Support the Band Directors and other Staff with honest dedication and loyalty
- Maintain a strong dedication to the **entire** band program
- Not miss any rehearsal, performances or functions of the band except for severe illness or death in the family
- Up-hold the highest possible standards as set for all band members
- Participate in all special band events
- Demonstrate the highest level of musicianship throughout the entire year
- If not chosen, I will assume my regular role in the band and give full cooperation to the other members selected as well as the Band Directors and staff

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_