

2022-23 BBHHS Marching Bees Percussion Auditions and Clinics

May 3, 2022

Hello Prospective Percussion Prodigies and Parental Personages!

Not a moment too soon comes this important information about clinics and auditions for the 2022-23 BBHHS Marching Band percussion sections. I'm Scott Velardo, percussion advisor for the BBH schools and the BBHHS Marching Bees. For those of you who may be new to this, I'll try to briefly explain; it'll be a little different this year anyway. (Actually, this may get long, so settle in for a good read!)

How does the audition work?

We will do the audition itself one of two ways:

1. In person (preferred) — Students will sign up for a specific time (about 10 minutes long) to perform the assigned materials for me, and possibly another director who chooses to join. No other students will be present. You'll be able to warm up in another room before your audition, but should be outside the audition room door real to play at your assigned time.
2. On video — In the event that we cannot schedule time to hear all the auditions in person (this may well happen), we will provide instructions and a due date for submitting videos of your performance.

Each performance will be evaluated based on specific criteria and a numerical score and comments given. Scores are compared AFTER all have been evaluated individually. The results will be considered, along with schedules and other factors, to determine the best instrument assignments for each student and section. The goal is for everyone to place each student where they will have a chance to learn and grow, while also contributing to the group's performances.

What do we have to play?

You'll be given musical exercises and music to work on, and instructed in the ways to do so. Between clinics, you'll be expected to practice as prescribed in order to be ready for the next clinic, and to prepare to do your best on the audition. The materials will be provided as PDFs in emails (I will have printed copies at the clinics, but not enough for everyone, so please print your own if possible!).

Where?

We will meet in the High School Band room for the clinics, possibly spreading out to other rooms or outdoors as needed. The auditions, if held in person, will be in the Choir or Theory room, while the Band room is available for students to warm up.

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What do we need to bring?

1. Three-ring binder, Plastic sheet protectors — this will become your precious Drumline Book, and will contain musical exercises, band music, drill charts and other band documents. You'll need to have it on hand at every band/drumline event. Be sure it's a durable one, because it will take a lot of abuse!
2. Your printed pages of materials sent in emails, loaded into your binder in order.
3. Clothespins or Binder clips or similar — your binder will keep pages from blowing away off the music stand, but you'll need some kind of clip to keep pages from turning; recommend about 4 per person.
4. Pencil and Eraser — ALWAYS have these at any rehearsal of any band!
5. Drumsticks/mallets — Some of the more expensive, specialty mallets will be provided by the band, but everyone should bring the most appropriate pair of sticks you have to the clinics. Later, we'll choose specific stick models for the group and let what you need to buy.
6. Summer Schedule information — Please be ready to give me written information about your schedule (work, sports, travel, etc.) and what degree of flexibility you may have. This can affect scheduling and even instrument assignment, so that we can coordinate rehearsal times.
7. Ear Plugs are essential equipment. Marching percussion gets very loud, and hearing damage is both permanent and painless; you don't know it's happening until it's happened. Cheap foam plugs from CVS are useful but disposable. Music retailers have a variety of designs for various levels of sound level reduction and price points. I strongly recommend a little research!
8. Appropriate shoes and clothing — This activity is a bit like running hurdles with a knapsack on your belly; sometimes through rain and mud, sometimes in hot sun. Loose fitting, open-toed shoes are great if you like smashing your toes with drum equipment and tripping over your own feet. Athletic shoes of some kind are required instead (it's both a natural, practical requirement and a Band regulation). Also, consider the weather when dressing for rehearsals through out the season; you may need to be ready to stay warm, stay cool, protect yourself from sun, etc.
9. Drinking water.
10. An attitude of cooperative teamwork, enthusiasm for music and drumming, and readiness to learn.

Do we really have to do this?

I don't like the term "mandatory." But the fact is, you're either doing a thing or you're not. This is part of doing this thing. Being part of a team means you are depending on, and depended upon by, everyone else. Success, both individually and collectively, only comes if everyone does their part. So it is expected that everyone will do everything possible throughout the season to accommodate the necessary schedules, practice and prepare for each rehearsal or performance, ask questions as needed, and cooperate and help wherever possible. Clearly, some conflicts are legitimate and inevitable; in that event, please let us know in advance so

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arrangements can be made to adjust. (I do realize that this is coming at pretty short notice for these specific dates, so all we can ask is for everyone to do the best we can.)

When?

Wed May 4 8th grade clinic during Band class time

Wed May 11 5:30-6:30 — Bass Drum and Cymbals clinic
6:45-7:45 — Front Ensemble clinic
8:00-9:00 — Snare Drum and Multi-tenors clinic

Week of May 4 8th grade clinics during Band class time (exact days TBD)

Wed May 18 5:30-6:30 — *Bass Drum and Cymbals clinic
6:45-7:45 — *Front Ensemble clinic
8:00-9:00 — *Snare Drum and Multi-tenors clinic

Week of May 4 8th grade clinics during Band class time (exact days TBD)

Wed May 25 5:30-6:30 — *Bass Drum and Cymbals clinic
6:45-7:45 — *Front Ensemble clinic
8:00-9:00 — *Snare Drum and Multi-tenors clinic

*Arrangement of these sessions within the 5:30-9:00 timeframe may may adjust to meet the needs of students, so stay tuned!

*If possible, we would use this block of time on May 25, and possibly May 26, to do in-person auditions. If it is clear that we need the instruction time instead, we will opt for video auditions instead, and use the May 25 time for clinics as planned.

If you have questions, concerns, conflicts, or anything else to discuss, you can reach me at velardos@bbhcsd.org .

Thank you very much for your participation!

See you soon,

Scott Velardo