

DRUMLINE AND PIT PERCUSSION INFORMATION 2021 (Covid Update)

_____ Hello everyone and I hope you are all as excited as I am to begin the 2021 season of marching band here at Reidsville High School. As you have no doubt seen, our drumline here is a very visual, exciting part of our band program. All band members have a fondness for the drumline and it is also a fan favorite. It is a vital part of our marching band as it adds elements to the music and marching that you cannot find in other sections. I am excited for your interest in this opportunity and I can't wait to see what you bring to this season.

As stated in the general Marching Band letter, this year's band camp will (tentatively) begin on July 29th and will run through August 13th. Thursday, July 29th will be for the Leadership Crew and 9th graders only. Friday July 30th will be for you, percussion/drumline and are mandatory to be a member of the drumline or pit; Colorguard will also be here those days. The rest of the band members will join us on Monday, August 2nd. All percussion students, with the exception of those playing Bass Drum will need to order at least one pair of marching sticks through the form included in this packet.

On Friday, July 30th, we will be doing general percussion workouts and auditioning for the various drumline and pit instruments. These instruments include Snare Drum, Marching Tenors (Quints), Bass Drum, Cymbals, and the various pit instruments. You are allowed to audition on multiple instruments and I encourage you to do so. There may be opportunities at times for you to play multiple or different instruments. The audition materials are included and they will be used as percussion warm ups throughout the Fall. The audition items included are as follows:

“8 On A Hand” - An alternating eighth note warm up with moving accents

“Triplet Diddle” - A warm up focusing on triplets with moving diddles and rolls

“Double Beat” - An alternating diddle/sixteenth/bounce warm up with rim shots on snare

“Paradiddle Jam” - A paradiddle exercise with moving back sticking on snares

“Ram Flams/Ram Flams II” - Flam exercises based on 16th notes and Triplets

For those interested in Snare Drum, we will be using the “Traditional Grip;” this grip includes the altered left hand from the standard “match grip.” I will include some information on the correct hand position for this grip for those of you who are new to it or just need a refresher in the overall percussion packet.. If you have ever seen the RHS drumline, this is the grip that the snare drummers have always used. **It is important to remember that even if you do not end up with your first choice of instrument, you will still have a place. All the instruments are equally important to our marching band and all of you are as well.

For those of you interested in Pit Percussion, I will include a sheet with various scales that we will utilize as audition materials and warm ups. The Mallets and Pit/Front Ensemble are very important to our overall marching sound.

During the second half of the day Friday, we will work to master the warm ups as a complete section. We will then move on to working on the show music as well as some drumline cadences. We will then cover some marching and maneuvering items that are specific only to percussion such as the “crab step.” The final thing we will do is fit you for your uniforms; We will do this at the end of the day on Friday.

Once again, I am so excited by your interest in the RHS drumline and I can't wait to begin the year with you. The audition materials will be uploaded in a “Percussion Packet” so that you will have ample time to prepare them over this summer. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to email me and I will help you as much as possible. I will also be at school one day every week over the summer. I'm not sure what day yet, but I'll let you know as soon as I know.

Travis Pike, B.M.
Director of Bands, RHS