

# PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOLS MARCHING BAND

## Student Leadership Application

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A LEADER OF YOUR PEERS?

Being a drum major or section leader may seem like a very glamorous and desirable role from the outside, but these are very hard work. The students chosen for these position must exemplify three major skills of leadership:

#### TEAMWORK

Marching Band is the largest team you are ever likely to be on. We do not have room for egos. Exceptional leaders leave personal interests behind and put what is best for the whole group ahead of them. People look up to leaders who use their position to impact the actions and experiences of others. This is the most powerful skill a leader can possess.

#### INITIATIVE

Leaders are proactive and encourage progress. Nothing can be accomplished if we don't have someone to take the first step. Leaders are impactful because they provide solutions and act on their ideas. Leaders are not simply assigned tasks to complete; they seek out their duty and fulfill it.

#### FOCUS

Ideas and action mean nothing without a clear plan. Leaders are always aware of multiple goals at once, and they stick to them. People cannot get behind people with big dreams and no means in which to realize them. Set realistic goals that can act as a foundation for your long term goals!

#### TEAMWORK / INITIATIVE / FOCUS

These are not *traits* you are *born* with; they are *skills* you can *learn*. Leadership comes from within and is expressed through your persona, actions, and diligence.

### ***PLYMOUTH HS STUDENT LEADERSHIP POSITIONS:***

All student leaders should arrive at rehearsals 20-30 minutes before rehearsal, more when there's a task to do. You will need to stay at least a few minutes after rehearsal to assist with questions and equipment. Near perfect attendance is expected of all student leaders.

Drum Majors- one junior and one senior.

Section Leaders- number of section leaders varies, but is generally about 3-4 for woodwinds, 2-3 for brass and 2-3 for percussion. Responsibilities include- assisting members of your section to learn music and drill, helping other students to solve issues that come up, and basically being a helpful peer within the section. Assisting with the directions from the podium

Color guard captain- this application isn't required for this position. Lead color guard very similar to section leaders

Equipment managers- 2-3 students to lead the loading of the equipment. These students need to be good at spatial organization and remember how we load each week to keep things consistent.

Treasurer- assist with collection and deposit of funds into student activity account

Secretary- one from each school- to help with school announcements, contacting media about band events, attendance, copies, and other paper tasks

***We try to split these roles and tasks between the two high schools, and to give a responsibility to all students who are interested in leadership within the marching band organization, while helping students to develop their personal skills and strengths.***

**PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOLS MARCHING BAND**  
**Student Leadership Application**

*Please type your personal information and answers to the following questions.*

1. Name:
2. First choice of leadership position:
3. Second choice of leadership position- if you have one:
4. Music activities you participate in:
5. Non-music school activities you participate in:

***SIGNATURES***

By signing below, I am indicating my awareness of the requirements of the position of drum major/section leader. If I am chosen I will do my best to uphold the position at all times. I understand it is possible I will not be chosen for this role based on any of my answers here as well as assessment of my ability to complete this role. Whether I am assigned this title or not, I promise to maintain excellent standing in the band I also understand that I could be chosen for this very demanding position.

Student Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

As parent of a drum major/section leader candidate, I have read the requirements enclosed. I am aware that this is a team effort between the student, parent, and teacher. I will do my best to support this relationship for the benefit of all involved. Whether or not my child is assigned to this role, I promise to assist in maintaining my child's excellent standing in the band.

Parent Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOLS MARCHING BAND**  
**Student Leadership Application**

**SHORT ANSWER.** Please answer the following questions thoughtfully and sincerely. Also be specific in your answers to the position for which you are applying. 75 – 150 words.

1. There is a lot of pressure to be both a student and a leader of students. How have you shown that you are ready for the pressure?
2. Have you considered the extra time this position will involve, and are you ready to make that commitment? What efforts have you made to prioritize your time?
3. What challenges will you need to overcome in order to do the best job you can as drum major/section leader?
4. In this position you have to maintain the disciplined focus of your friends. Name three possible ways you intend to handle that. (Ex. talking during instruction, not being prepared, not listening, going to minus one).
5. What is your vision for the marching band this season, and how do you know you can help us achieve it?
6. How and why would you encourage students to join the Plymouth HS Marching Band?

**LEADERSHIP STATEMENT.** In any format you choose (movie, letter, song, essay, book, etc.), address the band on why you are the best candidate for this position by answering the questions below. *WOW US!!!*

- How does a drum major/section leader act selflessly? How can you make this skill visible to your peers?
- What is the difference between “doing your job” as drum major/section leader and “taking an initiative” as drum major/section leader? What are the scenarios in which the average band member can take an initiative as well?
- What ideas do you have that can enhance the community, culture, and camaraderie of the marching band? How will you enact these ideas?
- Name another skill that you would add to the three listed (sacrifice, initiative, focus), and explain why you believe it is an important quality for a leader to possess.