



MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL MUSTANG BAND

SPRING BRANCH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUZANNE THOMPSON, DIRECTOR OF BANDS
DAVID KASTOR, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF BANDS

PERCUSSION PADCAMPS AND AUDITION – SPRING 2017

Dear Parents and Students,

As we move towards the end of the spring semester of 2017, we are anticipating the auditions for the battery percussion and front ensemble for the fall marching season of 2017. Please read this letter in its entirety.

The process by which we determine placement is a process that is currently adopted by a large majority of the percussion programs around the state of Texas. This process allows for students to improve over time and truly illustrate their desire for a particular position in the battery or front ensemble. Their fall placement is not decided by a single audition in a room with judges that could be considered subjective. Instead, they are judged thru a week-long process of rehearsals and personal development.

At the beginning of the “padcamp” process, every student is considered to be on the same level without preconceived ideas of placement. Each student has to earn their own spot and returning members are not guaranteed the same spot as the previous year. In past years, we have had complacent upperclassmen lose a spot on a particular instrument and have had a hard working, incoming freshman apply themselves and move right past upperclassmen. In addition, we have had woodwind or double reed players perform better during padcamp than percussionists and receive a percussion position.

For clarification, when we use the word “drumline”, we essentially mean all percussionists, including the front ensemble (e.g. mallets, bass drum, timpani, etc.).

We will have “padcamp” for drumline placement starting on Monday, May 8th in the Memorial HS Band Hall. We will meet Monday through Thursday from 4:00-5:30pm.

*Please note that attendance is mandatory if you plan on auditioning for the battery percussion (snare drum, multiple bass drums, or tenor drums), unless excused in advance by Mrs. Thompson at Suzanne.Thompson@springbranchisd.com. Attending padcamp is a great way to improve the entire drumline’s skill and advances the social aspects of being in this unique organization at MHS.

Dates of the 2017 Padcamps:

Monday, May 10th – 4:00pm-5:30pm

Tuesday, May 11th – 4:00pm-5:30pm

Wednesday, May 12th – 4:00pm-5:30pm

Thursday, May 13th – 4:00pm-5:30pm

These padcamps will serve as the drumline audition for the Fall 2017 marching season. The results will be posted with the band audition results.

Every student should bring their own practice pad and a pair of marching snare sticks – either “Ralph Hardimons” or “Ralphie Jrs.” both by Vic Firth. Please bring your stick bag and all sticks and mallets with you to padcamp as well.

Other factors that will impact placement in the 2017 percussion section:

- Past rehearsal attendance, behavior, respect, communication, compliance and dependability
- Grades and past consistency of passing all classes
- Musical achievements peripheral to band (e.g. All-Region Orchestra/Band audition placement and Solo and Ensemble ratings)
- Illustration of other leadership factors

Other information: Please be aware that in the fall semester, the battery (field) percussion (i.e. snare, bass drums, tenors) will meet during 5th period lunch, with some days meeting with Symphonic Band during 6th period. The front ensemble or pit percussion (i.e. mallets, timpani, auxiliaries, etc.) will be in a separate class. Band placement for the spring semester will be determined by an audition on the Region Band audition music (available at Summer Band in August).

Drumline leadership positions will not be determined by this audition. Those seeking leadership within the drumline will still need to participate in the MHS Band leadership process.

Each member of the MHS drumline and front ensemble is required to attend percussion camp. Students in the battery (field) percussion must attend or risk losing their spot in the drumline. This year’s percussion camp will once again be led by staff from N8RHYTHM. It will be held in the MHS Band Hall from Monday, July 24th through Thursday, July 27th, from 8:30am to 4:00pm. The cost of the camp is \$150 (checks made payable to MHS Mustang Band Booster Club, Inc.). This fee is used to help pay for the instructor fees. Please visit <http://www.n8rhythm.com/> for more information about N8RHYTHM.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or conflicts that you might have. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Thompson
713-251-2686 (Band Office)
Suzanne.Thompson@springbranchisd.com

David Kastor
713-251-2522 (Band Office)
David.Kastor@springbranchisd.com

Padcamp 2013 Intermediate

1. 16 on a hand

144 bpm

Snare Drum

Musical notation for '1. 16 on a hand' in 4/4 time, 144 bpm. The notation consists of two staves. The first staff has four measures of continuous 16th-note patterns, with a 'R' under the first measure and an 'L' under the second measure. The second staff has four measures of continuous 16th-note patterns, with an 'R' under the first measure, an 'L' under the second measure, and an 'R' under the fourth measure. The piece ends with a double bar line and a final 16th note.

2. Irish Spring

144 bpm

Musical notation for '2. Irish Spring' in 12/8 time, 144 bpm. The notation consists of three staves. The first staff has 12 measures of 12/8 notes with a 'R' under every other measure. The second staff has 12 measures of 12/8 notes with 'L' under every other measure. The third staff has 12 measures of 12/8 notes with a mix of 'R' and 'L' under the notes. The piece ends with a double bar line and a final 12/8 note.

3. 16th Note Timing (Controlled Rebound)

128 bpm

Musical notation for '3. 16th Note Timing (Controlled Rebound)' in 4/4 time, 128 bpm. The notation consists of three staves. The first staff has four measures of continuous 16th-note patterns, with 'Check' under the first measure, 'R L R R L R R L R R L R' under the second measure, and 'Check' under the fourth measure. The second staff has four measures of continuous 16th-note patterns, with 'R R L R R L R R L R L' under the first measure, 'Check' under the second measure, and 'R L L R L L R L L R L L' under the fourth measure. The third staff has four measures of continuous 16th-note patterns, with 'Check' under the first measure, 'L R L L R L L R L L R L' under the second measure, and 'R' under the fourth measure. The piece ends with a double bar line and a final 16th note.

4. Single Hand Accent Tap

32 bpm

R
L

5. Grid Accent

124 bpm

Check R R R R Check

37

L L L L Check R R R R

Check L L L L R

6. Triple Duple

144 bpm

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

7. Single Double

128 bpm

R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R R L L R R L L R R L L R R L L

R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R R L L R R L L R R L L R

2017-18 MEMORIAL HS MUSTANG BAND DRUMLINE APPLICATION

IMPORTANT DATES

May 8-11 – Percussion Padcamp and Audition (4:00–5:30pm)
June 1 – Marching Band Orientation (2:00–5:00pm)
June 2 – Marching Band Orientation (10:00am–4:00pm)
July 24-27 – N8RHYTHM Percussion Camp (8:30am–4:00pm)
July 31 – First day of Summer Band

NAME: _____ GRADE (2017-18): _____

CELL PHONE: _____ STUDENT ID: _____

STUDENT E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Please list any athletic sports you plan on participating in high school:

In the space beside each instrument, please write a number indicating the order in which you want to be considered for each instrument. (1–first choice, 2–second choice, 3–third choice, 4–fourth choice, etc.)

_____ Snare Drum _____ Tenors _____ Bass Drum

_____ Mallet percussion – marimba, xylophone, vibraphone, and/or bells

_____ Auxiliary Percussion _____ Synthesizer (piano keyboard)

PERCUSSION CAMP

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DRUMLINE EXPECTATIONS

- All percussion students are expected to attend ALL Mustang Band rehearsals and performances, including the N8RHYTHM Percussion Camp and Summer Band rehearsals.
- The collaborative nature of the battery requires extreme dedication and commitment; therefore attendance at the Percussion Camp is mandatory for all battery percussion students.
- Students on battery instruments will risk losing their spot on the field if they miss one or more days of the N8RHYTHM Percussion Camp.

I agree to abide by the expectations listed above, including attendance at Percussion Camp.

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____