



# Drum Major of the Clare HS Pioneer Marching Band

Prepared for: Interested Sophomores and Freshmen of the Clare Bands  
Prepared by: Jason Lowe, Director of Bands, Clare Public Schools

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**Congratulations** on taking an important step forward in the life and history of the Clare Bands. Simply by showing interest in a leadership position, you have demonstrated a willingness to serve a cause greater than yourself, a tradition that has been in our community for over 50 years.

By stepping forward, you assume more responsibility for yourself and for others. Your classmates will look to you for guidance, for assistance, as an example of all things the Pioneer Marching Band and the Clare Bands represent.

There is a tremendous amount of work to be done. However, investment in yourself will be as great as the investment in the group. The work may be hard, but it will pay dividends you may not realize during your high school experience.

Welcome to a team of exciting challenges, fun experiences and and engaging work.

Welcome to a community of personal growth and self-realization.

Welcome to the Leadership Team of the Clare Bands.





# Summary

## Objective

Give pertinent and vital details to the job responsibilities and duties of the Drum Major of the Clare Pioneer Marching Band

## Goals

Prepare, as best as possible, motivated and talented young people to become leaders of their peers and respected pillars of our community

## Drum Major Narrative

Being Drum Major can look very appealing from the distance of the field; you must know it is a tremendous amount of work. Drum Majors of the Clare Pioneer Marching Band must possess and demonstrate the following abilities:

- Hold the group's focus on a particular goal
- Develop, maintain and promote a basic set of values
- Present themselves in a positive manner and in an understandable fashion
- Possess a vision for the organization today and for its future
- Identify, train and retain talented band members
- Realize their personal limitations and exercise the ability to delegate to others

Our leaders should be: mature, prepared, organized, selfless, and willing to grow... all in front of others.

This is a lot to expect of a young person... however, these are traits that colleges look for in prospective students, what employers look for in their best employees and what it takes to be successful in any walk of life. Your willingness to learn and grow in a leadership role will build your character in every way possible.

## What we are

We are a band. First and foremost, we are a collective of musicians and students... not just any musicians, not just any students. We are the Pioneer Marching Band. We represent the very finest our community expects from its young people and its school. The Pioneer Marching Band is the most visible and largest student organization on campus. As Drum Major, you become one of the very focal points of this visible organization.

Beyond the Pioneer Marching Band, you become the student leader of the entire Clare Band program, encompassing the Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, Middle School Bands and Beginning Band and all of its subgroups, including Pioneer Color Guard, Jazz Combo, and solo & ensemble events. Your duties will extend beyond the field and into places of which you may not yet be aware.

## Ensemble Essentials

Everyone's time is important. Work together to make every experience efficient. There will always be circumstances where adjustments will be made on the fly, but with preparation, time loss will be at a minimum. Your peers, and their families, will appreciate our collective timeliness.

Come to every rehearsal, performance or situation as prepared and committed as you can be. Sincere earnest effort is expected from all parties; your peers will take their cues from you.

Discipline is crucial. This often falls into the category of having to ask permission is equal to asking for absolution. Think about your actions beforehand.

Participation is essential to our group's success and its continuation. Your job is to elicit as much as each individual member can give at any given time. Include each student in the process; encourage, nurture and believe in each student's ability to succeed. We do not know the motivation within each student, but important thing is that he or she is with us, has chosen the Pioneer Marching Band. Get each student to give more of him or herself in our organization. We are stronger and better with everyone participating!

## Responsibilities

Scaring you during your first informational meeting, these are the top three priorities expected of the Drum Major of the Clare Pioneer Marching Band:

1. *Family*
2. *School*
3. *Band*

If you do not have a grounding in these three activities, in this order, you probably will not be an effective leader. Each of these has played an incredibly important role in your journey to this point. Do not neglect this.

While participation in your school and larger community is encouraged, please remember your choices will directly affect those of your peers as it relates to band. Your commitment as Drum Major of the Clare Pioneer Marching Band should be amongst the most important as any you have ever done. Remember that everyone's time is valuable: yours, the band's and your director's. Our schedule is developed with an absolute minimum of conflicts. It is understood that conflicts in your schedule will be kept to an absolute minimum as well. If one arises, communicate as soon as possible. This does not mean that your director will be thrilled, but you will have done due diligence to communicate.

Expected characteristics to be demonstrated at all time:

- Self-discipline and responsibility for your actions
- Understanding of your role and its implications
- Good and capable musicianship
- Approachability
- Ability to work with others
- Ability to think three steps in advance of the average band member

# Audition



## Process

Following an extensive training period by graduating and/or current drum major(s), it is only natural to have these skills tested to ascertain your preparedness to assume the role and responsibilities of being Drum Major of the Clare Pioneer Marching Band. The format below will be used in selecting the next Drum Major of the Clare Pioneer Marching Band:

Description	Percentage
<b>Band Membership Vote</b> This allows the general membership of the Pioneer Marching Band a voice the selecting their leader.	10%
<b>Commands &amp; Individual Marching Skills</b> Candidates will be judged upon their ability to give crisp understandable commands to a squad of students. This will occur at the conclusion of the Teaching section as a means of review for the squad and the candidate.	20%
<b>Conducting</b> The purpose is to assess how well a student can adequately conduct the band in a real-time situation. This is usually held in the band room during class with the current ensemble. At least two weeks prior to auditions, the director will give all candidates a recording and any applicable scores for study.	10%
<b>Interview</b> The interview is intended to determine the verbal skills, philosophy, expertise and attitude as it applies to becoming and growing into the role of Drum Major of the Clare Pioneer Marching Band. Questions asked of each candidate are identical. Leadership potential, coping with teacher, peer and situational pressure, and ability to work with others are evaluated.	25%
<b>Teacher Evaluations</b> Teacher evaluations are used to ascertain the candidate's standing outside the band program. As Drum Major of the Clare Pioneer Marching Band, other faculty members share their insight	10%
<b>Teaching</b> During this section of the audition, candidates work with a volunteer squad of students. This exhibits the candidate's ability to work with a small group and with individuals on a variety of mechanical issues related to marching. Stationary commands and basic movement fundamentals are tested. Candidates are evaluated on their clarity of instruction, confidence, and ability to work with the group.	25%
<b>Total</b>	100%



# Schedule

Date	Task
April	Lead and instruct drum major training sessions in accordance with band schedule; Assist in recruiting middle school band students and retention of current band students
May	Continue training drum major candidates; prepare for auditions; assist in awards coordination; Assist in show development and music selection
June	Assist in show development and music selection; Assist in calendar production; Prepare for drum major camp
July	Attend drum major camp; prepare for Pioneer Marching Band Week
August	Assist in coordination, leadership of Pioneer Marching Band Week; Assist in reach out to current membership informing of rehearsal schedule
September	Mechanics of season: Class rehearsals, Wednesday evening rehearsals, Friday game nights, additional performances as scheduled
October	Mechanics of season: Class rehearsals, Wednesday evening rehearsals, Friday game nights, additional performances as scheduled; Band-Tastic Concert
November	Season review; Pep band performances as needed; Clean and stow marching equipment; Recruit students for Solo & Ensemble Festival
December	Recruit students for Solo & Ensemble Festival; Assist with concert season maintenance
January	Assist with in-school or after school sectionals or Solo & Ensemble practice sessions; Begin to think of show ideas for following fall; Solicit ideas from band members; Worry about the following year, whether that is your senior year or first year at college...
February	Continue focus for Solo & Ensemble and Band Festival; Think of and flesh out show ideas for following fall; Solicit ideas from band members
March	Identify your successor(s); sell your job; remember why it is you decided to lead our ensemble and recreate that feeling in everyone around you