

## **Poplar Bluff Sho-Me Band Drum Major Auditions**

**Drum Major Candidates** - Must have 2 years of marching band experience, must be enrolled in a large ensemble class and must carry an overall 2.5 G.P.A. in school classes.

### **Selection process:**

1. **Write an essay.** You have had the opportunity to observe drum majors in your high school career. In your essay, discuss three actions that you found to be effective and why. Discuss actions that you found to be ineffective and describe how you may have approached the situation differently. This is not an easy task, so my suggestion is to take it very seriously. This will demonstrate your thought process and reflect your personality.
2. **Conduct a piece of the show** (if the show music is not available at the time of the auditions, a concert band piece will be chosen instead). Scores and mp3 will be provided. The routine should include:
  - a. Proper posture, hand position, and technique
  - b. Correct beat patterns
  - c. Cueing of important sections
  - d. Dynamic Changes
  - e. Impact Points
  - f. Cut-Offs
  - g. Tempo Changes
  - h. Style Changes (legato, marcato, etc.)
3. **Conduct the Star Spangled Banner**
4. **Marching Basics Commands** - Attention, Mark Time, Forward March, Dragstep
5. **Teaching a “new” member** - Building correct posture and basic maneuvering.
6. **Interviews** - This will be with a panel of directors. You will not receive questions in advance and you should be ready for anything. They will explore your leadership style, ethics, goals, etc.
7. **Teacher Evaluations** - We will send an anonymous evaluation form to all teachers after we receive names of students wanting to audition.
8. **Band Member Evaluation** - Students of the band will evaluate your leadership capabilities on a Google Form.

**Note to all parents of drum major candidates:** In order to be fair and unbiased to all of the candidates involved in the audition process, we will not discuss the audition process or final

outcome with any parent or student at any time. We ask that everyone please respect this policy and trust that we will do the very best for the program (even when it is not popular).