

# Marching Band and Other High School Percussion Techniques

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Habits Summer Institute  
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## Focus on the Non-Variables

**Mastery of Fundamentals** (playing and marching)- Good teaching

**Chops**- Good repping

**Musicality**- Smart Arranging

**Ensemble Timing and Clarity**- Good teaching and rehearsing

## Fundamentals

Same as middle school, but faster and with more variety and combinations

All students, battery or front ensemble understand these rudimental and timing exercises

EVERYTHING TRANSFERS INSIDE TO CONCERT BAND, TOO.

## Battery Requirements

\*All played while marching

### 1. Rebound Stroke Exercises

1. 8's- all dynamics
2. Down-up
3. Timing Exercises
  1. 16th-based
  2. Triplet-based

### 2. Accent-Tap Exercises

1. Downbeat
2. Upbeat
3. Triple
4. Rock n Roll
5. 5-7-9
6. 16th Accent Grid
7. Triplet Accent Grid

### 3. Diddle Exercises

1. A/B Double Beat
2. Irish Spring
3. Gallup
4. 5/8 Paradiddle (Stick Control)
5. Paradiddle breakdown
6. PDD breakdown
7. 7/8 Paradiddle

### 3. Roll Exercises

1. 16th Diddles
2. 16th 5-strokes
3. 16th 7 strokes
4. "Chicken and a roll"

5. Triplet Diddle
6. Triple 5-strokes
7. Triplet 7 strokes
8. Triplet "chicken and a roll"

#### 4.. Flam Exercises

1. Flam Accent Breakdown
2. Flam Tap/Triple Stroke
3. Swiss Triplets
4. Combinations of all

#### Front Ensemble Exercises

- Scales and Arpeggios
- 8's
- Green Scales
- 4 Mallet rudiments
  - Double Vertical Strokes
  - Double Lateral Strokes
  - Single Independent Strokes
  - Single Alternating Strokes
- All 12 major keys (non negotiable)

#### The Ensemble Warmups

##### 1. Rehearsal Warmup

- larger variety of exercises to address issues
- chop building/endurance/speed
- section-specific skills/phrases
- Front-to-back understanding and short discussion
- Reps for understanding
- Join the winds for full rehearsal

##### 2. Public Warmup

- short list of exercises- engage the ears and hands quickly
- never changes
- rehearse the music in reverse order
- run it, go perform
- REHEARSE THIS WARM UP SEQUENCE BEFORE YOU ACTUALLY DO IT
- the goal is comfort, no surprises, confident playing

## Training Schedule: Winter/Spring, Summer, Camp, Fall

### Winter/Spring Focus

- Teaching fundamentals to new students
- Starts in Feb or March, depending on the need (graduating seniors, skill level, moves, etc)
- Reviewing and guiding returning students for skill development
- Practice Pads and Keyboards
- Start dividing them based on their strengths
- Leadership candidates get to teach
- Set the ensemble in April
- May rehearsals scheduled around school events, final exams, etc
- Be smart, make it as convenient as you can.

### Summer Focus

- Two rehearsals each week (3 hours, AM or PM)
- Google Form/Microsoft Form sent in April for parents to confirm student attendance (vacations, etc)
- Allows for effective rehearsals for those present.
- Also reveals who may not need to be on the instrument they were assigned if they are gone all summer.
- move and play exercises
- Build chops and stamina
- Learn the exercise rep for the season
  - Basics plus new territory for that group (flams, roll variations, etc)
  - Write the music that so in incorporates these skills

### Camp Focus

- Learn the opener AND the percussion feature in the closer (if applicable)
  - That feature can be slightly above their skillset
  - Learn it early, have substitutions at-the-ready if they can't handle it
  - SET THEM UP FOR SUCCESS
  - Chasing notes and rhythms in September is not allowed.
  - Front Ensemble learns the most music. Usually the first two movements.
  - Save the third movement for the school year
  - Stay ahead of the game

### Fall Season Focus

- establishing the 2 types of warm ups
- Learning the rest of the show
- Small edits on learned material (be careful, be smart)
- Ensemble Clarity, blend, and balance
- Musical focus for each phrase
- Aligning front to back, matching unison parts in pit and winds
- Build confidence through good repetition
- While Battery learns drill with the winds, front ensemble learns more music, builds chops/ exercise expansion, tempo increases, cleans existing music with ensemble reminders (battery plays this here, woodwinds play this here, etc.)
- IF YOU HAVE MULTIPLE FIELDS, battery can learn drill faster than the winds (fewer students per instructor)
- Mondays- Sectionals, Learn new music, review, track the battery
- Tuesdays- full ensemble, add/earn new drill and music, rehearse music, put together
- Thursdays- review at beginning, rehearse home game stuff (banner, pregame), only rehearse what we are performing Friday night

### Show Day Rehearsal

Positive comments only

10 sec comments

Every rep is reminding them of ensemble issue/listening responsibility

Keep them fresh and focused

Percussion play every rep

Plenty of water

Make the day about THEM capitalizing on the MONTHS of great work they've done

### Budget Considerations

2 non-musical things factor into sound quality:

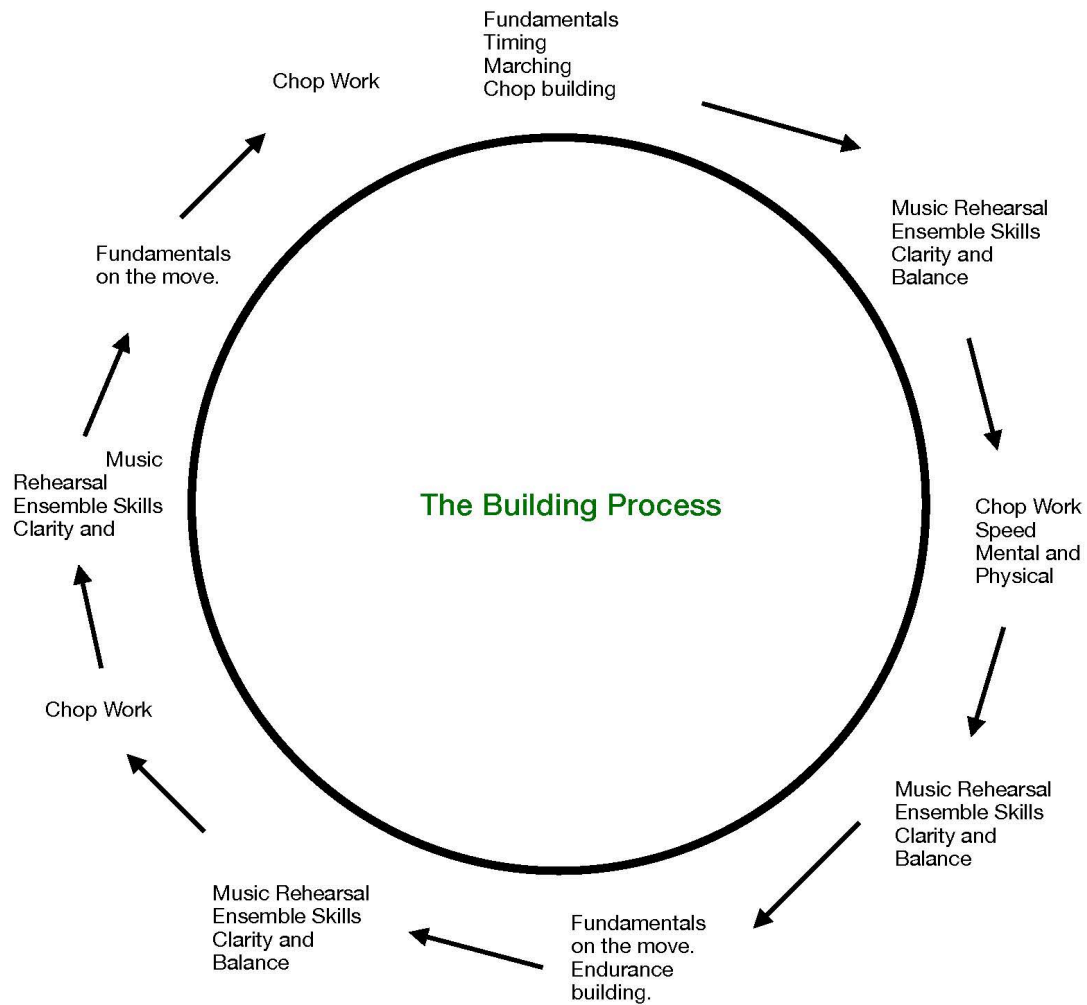
#### **Good sticks/mallets**

#### **Tuned, Fresh Drumheads**

- Drumheads
- more than you think you'll need!
  - Snare Tops (Remo Black Max)
  - Snare Bottoms (Remo K Falam)
  - Tenor Heads (Remo Pinstripe traditional sound or Remo Renaissance darker warmer sound)
  - Bass Heads- Remo PowerMax
  -

#### Sticks and Mallets

- Snare Sticks
- Quad Sticks
- Bass Mallets
- Marimba Mallets
- Vibe Mallets
- Xylo and Bell Mallets
- Concert BD mallets (different textures and rollers)
- Gong Mallets (soft, multiple pairs for rolling)



# **McEachern Drumline Winter Training Schedule** **2022 Season**

*\*Attendance is a major factor in Instrument Placement*

## **January: (Thursdays) High School Students only**

1/13 4-6pm

1/20 4-6pm

## **February (Thursdays) High School Students only**

2/3 4-6:30

2/10 4-6:30pm

2/17 4-6:30pm

## **March (Thursdays) High School AND 8<sup>th</sup> Graders**

3/3 5-7pm

3/10 5-7pm

3/17 5-7pm

*Saturday 3/19 Caravan to the WGI Atlanta Regional at Lambert HS (details coming later)*

3/24 5-7pm (tentative, possible LGPE conflict)

3/31 5-7pm

## **April (Tuesdays and Thursdays) All Students**

4/12 5-7:30pm

4/14 5-7:30pm

4/19 5-7:30pm

4/21 5-7:30pm

4/26 5-7:30pm

4/28 5-7:30pm (HS students Only)

## **May (Tuesdays and Thursdays) All Students**

5/5 5-8pm

5/10 5-8pm

5/12 5-8pm (HS students Only)

*5/17-5/20- Mini Camp Week #1, 5-8pm each night.*

## **June:**

*June 27-29 Mini Camp Week #2 5-9pm each night*

## **JULY**

**BAND CAMP (Required for ALL)**

7/11-7/15 \*times TBA. Plan for 8am-5pm

7/18-7/22 \*times TBA. Plan for 8am-9pm

