

2022 HVMB – Drum Major Auditions!!!

It's that time again! Drum Major Auditions are here. If you are interested, you need to read the following information and submit your essays by the due dates directly to Mr. Green. You will also need to attend the clinics we have scheduled and be available for interviews. Below is the information you will need. More details will be handed out as we move through the process. **This is open to any student in the band that has marched at least 1 season previously as a member of the Huron Valley Marching Band, or in combination with Lakeland or Milford as well.**

Step 1: Drum Major Essays

Please submit a typed response for each of the questions below. **Make sure your name is on your essay and return it by Friday, February 25th to Mr. Green in person or via email at bob.green@hvs.org.**

BEWARE OF THIS DATE!!!

You can submit a separate essay for Topic 1 and a second essay for Topic 2, or you can combine them...either is fine!

Topic 1: Why do you want to be drum major? What makes you the best candidate for the job? What ideas do you have that you feel will make the 2022 HVMB season a great year?

NO MIN/MAX word count – just make sure it is on time.

Topic 2: Please read the following statements that I have gathered from band staff about what they feel are important attributes to being an effective drum major. Discuss in your essay why you feel you represent these attributes, and why you feel that you can support these statements about what it takes to be an effective drum major.

ESSAY #2 Staff Statements:

An Effective Drum Major is someone who...

- The most visible person in the band
- Someone who is self-driven, prepared, able to work together with band and staff
- Professional, a natural leader by example, and one of the hardest working students in the band
- Can serve as a go between with staff and students
- Communicates expectations of rehearsal, keeps everyone on task, and realizes the position is one of responsibility (and is able to carry that out as a top priority).
- Has strong mediation skills to work with other students/staff to resolve issues.
- Is a top musician on their respective instrument

Step 2: MHS/LHS/IA Staff Endorsement:

Please have the attached paper (last page of this packet) completed by a staff member (school staff) at Milford/Lakeland/IA West to endorse your application for drum major. **Please have them complete it and place it in my mailbox at Lakeland or Milford, or they can scan and email it to me as well at bob.green@hvs.org.** Please complete this portion along with your essays and have this turned in by February 25th as well.

Step 3: Clinics/Interviews:

Clinic 1:

We will have an initial meeting/Clinic 1 with all prospective candidates on **Friday, March 4th at 3:30 pm.** This will be a brief meeting and overview of the process from 3:30 – 4:30 pm. **Attendance is mandatory. This meeting will be in the LAKELAND BAND ROOM.**

Clinic 2:

We will have a second clinic that focuses on the specifics of the audition/tryout/interviews on **Friday, March 11th at 3:30 pm.** This will also be a one-hour clinic. **Attendance is mandatory. This meeting will be in the MILFORD BAND ROOM.**

Interviews:

We will have a final interview (questions, conducting) on **Friday, March 18th at 3:30 pm** for all candidates. Interview times will be based on the number of people trying out, and we will post sign ups and more information for you on specifics after the first clinic when we know who all is trying out! **Attendance is mandatory. Interviews will be in the band office at LAKELAND HIGH SCHOOL. PLEASE PLAN ACCORDINGLY.**

Ok, you've read through all of this, and are now deciding, is this the right job for me? Here are some final thoughts you should ask yourself in making that extremely important decision:

A drum major must project a deep commitment and focus level that sets the tone for every rehearsal. The drum major must be engaged to set that tone early and consistently. The drum major must have the ability to single handedly change the entire feel and focus of a rehearsal if needed. The strength of show design, staffing, marching, and music all have far less effect on the success of the season compared to student effort and student focus. The drum major must be the one guiding and overseeing these efforts in a meaningful way. Anyone can conduct and salute, but not everyone can honestly say the band would be better off with them not playing and not marching, but instead, managing student effort and focus. Does the band benefit from you being on the podium and not playing/marching? Will you be ready to lead and inspire the band? This is something I need each of you to seriously consider. Thank you for considering this position, I wish you all the best of luck!

2022 Huron Valley Marching Band Staff Endorsement Form

Greetings:

The student presenting you this form is applying for the position of Drum Major for the Huron Valley Marching Band. They have been asked to seek an endorsement from at least one staff member at their school (MHS, LHS or IA West). Could you please complete the form and return it to my mailbox in the mailroom at either Lakeland or Milford by Friday, February 25th at the latest? If you prefer, you could complete and scan/email to me at bob.green@hvs.org. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND HELP WITH THIS IMPORTANT PROCESS.

Student Name: _____

Staff Member: _____

1. How long have you known this student? _____

2. What do you feel are the strongest qualities this student has relating to leadership?

3. Please rate this student as follows: 1 – 5 (5 being highest)

Ability to complete tasks/assignments on time

1 2 3 4 5

Ability to work with others in pairs/team/group setting

1 2 3 4 5

Ability to take criticism and use it to improve work/performance

1 2 3 4 5

Of the students you have had, where do you feel this student rates among their peers

1 2 3 4 5

Given what information you know about this student, how likely would you be to select this student as a candidate for drum major? (Is this a student you instantly picture as being a leader of the band program, responsible for leading the marching band next season?).

1 2 3 4 5

I know this may not be easy information to determine depending on the student, but whatever information you can share is valuable as they are coming to you to seek your approval for them to audition. Is there anything else you feel we should know about the student for this position?

Thank you for your help and support in this request. We appreciate your input and time. Again, if you can return to my mailbox at LHS/MHS in the mailroom by Friday, February 25th, or scan and send via email to bob.green@hvs.org, that would be a huge help.

Thank you,
Bob Green