

Drum Major Tryout Skills & Qualities

Conducting in 4/4 time, 3/4 time, and 2/4 time

- * clarity, simplicity and consistency of pattern are better than “fancy”
- * do not flick the hands. Hands should stay in a straight line without a rebound. No “poking,” “sprinkling,” or “magic poof” on the beats.

Marching

- * eyes open and eyes closed, semi-lift and glide stride

Commands

- * clarity, timing, confidence and poise
- * lower your vocal range to your “chest voice,” no girly speaking voice

Salute

- * performed with precision and snap

Bearing

- * poise, confidence, projection, pride, posture, demeanor

Leadership Ability

- * communication skills, friendliness, manners, attitude, flexibility, cooperation, reliability

Character

- * Christian character, maturity, reliability, responsibility, history of service to the ensemble, dedication, consistency, history of good attendance, teachability, motivation, reputation, honesty, history of punctuality, receptive to constructive criticism, loyalty, attitude

Oral Interview

- * question and answer, ability to think “on your feet” and respond with poise and confidence

Recognize that copying former drum majors is not always the correct way to do things. Sometimes they have their own areas of improvement. Use this sheet of suggestions.

Remember to submit your character references by the deadline.