

Broomfield High School Winter Percussion Ensemble Handbook

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The Musician' Pledge

Because I am a well-behaved musician, I listen and follow directions, use self-control, respect people, instruments, and materials, and **ALWAYS DO MY BEST.**

Because I am a world class musician, I listen attentively to music of many different styles and historical periods, and respect the music of other cultures.

Because I am a performing musician, I use my musical skills to the best of my ability and contribute to the group in my highest capacity.

Program Objective

The Broomfield High School Ensemble provides an opportunity for all students to refine their musical and marching skills through the art of percussion performance. It is designed to further develop and improve skills as a foundation for the outdoor marching band program while building individual musicianship. Finally, in addition to the musical development of the students, this program will also help build a strong work ethic, commitment and teamwork.

What is Indoor?

Over the next 5 months, your child will be given basic instruction in the area of percussion. For the percussion, this includes the proper techniques involved to play the various instruments and marching techniques. This training will be expanded into a 4 to 5 minute visual production including music and motion.

Our Indoor Units compete in circuits, which are similar to leagues in sports. While each circuit makes its own rules, and has its own judges, they usually confirm those rules set by international competition. The circuit in which we are primarily participating in this year is the RMPA (Rocky Mountain Percussion Association) we are required to compete in a number of shows with in our state.

There are many different categories in which groups can compete. First, each category is divided into scholastic or independent. In order for a group to compete in scholastic, all members must be currently enrolled in school. The groups are then broken down into levels. The level are A, Regional A, Open, and World.

Competitions are usually held on weekends, with the majority of the shows we attend being on Saturdays. Start times vary depending on the host and last several hours. Most shows are very close while others are further away.

We hope this is a start in answering any question you may have. We will continue to provide you with information as necessary.

Welcome to the wonderful world of Indoor!

Eligibility Requirements

BHS percussion is open to all students who want to further their music experience. Clinics will introduce basic skills to interested participants in November with final casting decisions to be made in early November. It is our goal to include as many interested students in the program as possible, however due to the nature of this year's show and ability level of the interested students may result in being asked to play another instrument. Furthermore, students who are learning percussion as another instruments, are expected to maintain their abilities on their primary instrument so that the outdoor program continues to build. [Academic Eligibility requires a 2.0, no F's, or two D's to march in this ensemble on show dates.](#)

Code of Conduct

All members are expected to adhere to the code of conduct set forth in the BHS student handbook. In addition, all members must adhere to the following conduct guidelines for both rehearsals AND performances:

1. No Chewing Gum
2. No Swearing (if necessary, administrative action WILL be taken.)
3. No Jewelry
4. No Running/ Screaming

5. No Eating in uniform (exception is water)
6. Any other etiquette as defined by the instructional staff.

Any conflicts will be reviewed by a meeting between staff and said student.

The meeting will address the conflict (incident) the overall goal is to have a positive learning environment while maintaining structured rules. All parties agreed on the following resolution:

1. No inappropriate language will be allowed.
2. Positive buy-in by all parties
3. Wait 24 hours to discuss conflicts
4. No disrespect is tolerated
5. Lead by example
6. Create a positive environment
7. No negative communication allowed, only direct, open communication
8. Come mentally and Physically prepared to each practice and continue throughout entire practice
9. If subject is sensitive, it needs to be a private conversation

If future problems arise, the order of contact should be:

1. Instructor-Derek Wilkerson
2. Head Instrumental Director- Mr. Mike Kreeger
3. Assistant Principal, John Long

Casting

Each Student will be “cast” in a role in the show. This is similar to a play/musical production.

All students will not be able to play all the instruments.

The staff makes an attempt to offer the most basic instruction in all areas, on their instruments marching technique and marching abilities.

Rehearsals

All students (including the pit) **must** wear sneakers and clothes for marching (NO JEANS!) to rehearsals. The instructional staff reserves the right to remove a student from rehearsal should their attire prove improper or dangerous for the activity. T-shirts and short are recommended as it may become hot in the rehearsal gym.

The indoor percussion activity is physical by nature. All students will be subject to conditioning exercises during rehearsals to increase stamina, flexibility, and agility. Water is the best refreshment to keep one’s energy up. Gatorade is fine, but we encourage the use of water bottles, as they are handy and stay cool throughout the rehearsal.

With any physical activity, there is the potential for injury. Should a student suffer an illness or ailment prior to or during a rehearsal, they must notify the staff immediately so that they may accommodate the situation.

Competitions

Competitions are usually held on Saturdays starting in early February. We try to compete (4) weekends a month, taking time off for Easter, major school functions, etc. The competitions vary in starting times and locations, but they are usually all-day and/or evening events.

We almost always have a short practice before leaving for a competition, so we will be asking the students to report to BHS a couple of hours before we plan on leaving for the competition. Because the school has more the one (1) competing activities we try to juggle gym time and need to leave ample time to load the equipment truck as efficiently as possible.

Students are expected to follow the code of conduct as outlined in the Broomfield High School student high school handbook when not on school property. This includes adhering to rules on school buses as set forth by the Board of Education. Please remember that you are constantly representing our program and school when we are on the road. We take pride in what we do as competitions are long, tiring, fun and rewarding; even if they don't always turn out the way we want them to. Watching the progress of everyone's shows from February to April is really a wonderful experience!

Attendance

Attendance at **ALL** rehearsals and performances are very important, indoor percussion is a co-curricular activity. Therefore, the director must approve **all absences** before they are considered excused. Please understand that an absence from this activity has a direct effect on the ***ENTIRE TEAM!***

Request for excused absences- These include major family events (I.E. weddings), religious education classed and/or holidays, standardized tests (i.e. SATs), college visitations/placement exams, and previously scheduled family business/vacations that cannot be changed. All excused absences **MUST** be made in writing and in advance to one of the directors, Mr. Wilkerson or Mr. Kreeger, who will determine whether the absence(s) will or will not be excused. All absence requests are due in writing by December 1st, 2009. Submission of a request for absence(s) does **Not** guarantee approval.

Emergency Absences- These will be granted on a case by case basis (i.e. sick from school, death in the family, etc.). In this case please notify Mr. Wilkerson or Mr. Kreeger **IMMEDIATELY** of the situation via phone 720-366-2695 or by email derek-wilkerson@hotmail.com

Tardiness- Students are expected to be ready to rehearse at the assigned rehearsal time. *I'd like for the students to prepare for the real world. Every job your student will have will request them to be 10-15 min. early before their shift begins.*

In addition the absence MUST recognized BHS attendance policies.

Additional Attendance Policies

Any student who misses a rehearsal during the week of a performance may or may not be allowed to perform on that upcoming weekend's performances. The student will still be required to attend the performance in full uniform. In an EMERGENCY, students may be excused from only ONE rehearsal to accommodate a conflict. In these circumstances, the instructors must be notified in advance please.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Every member's role in the ensemble is crucial to our success. Unlike a sports team where substitutes are available, all of our players start all of the time. We cannot rehearse or perform successfully and the ensemble's full potential without every member in attendance. Should attendance become a problem, the staff reserves the right to remove you from the program. Please remember that early communication is **KEY** to working through scheduling conflicts that ultimately keep the best interests of both you and the team in mind.

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The Blue Knights

The Blue Knights Indoor Ensemble is an organization much like our program, but on an independent level. This group was one of the first groups to set a base to what we now call winter percussion. If you are planning on Auditioning and partaking in the Blue Knights You must be aware that **ALL** BHS activities take president before the Blue Knights, But I encourage all to audition and to partake if they wish to do so.

How We Are Judged

Judges are men and women who have been trained and are certified to evaluate particular areas of our show. Just like units who compete in circuits, judges belong to, and are trained by, certain association.

There are several judges who evaluate our show. The judges watch the performance and they must “rank” and “rate” what they saw. Using a standard scoring system, they then determine what score to give. There are no specific deductions for errors, but errors usually disrupt the effectiveness of the performance, causing the judge to place the group lower on the scoring scale. The timing and penalty judge cannot award points, but he/she can access a deduction of points for timing and certain rule infractions.

You will see the judges talking into recorders during a performance. This allows instructors to have a running commentary on what the judge is seeing and feeling throughout the performance. It also helps to support the judge’s score. After the competition is over, there is a meeting between the judges and instructors where any questions can be answered and further explanations can be made.

We do not have the same judges every competition. Since there is usually more than one competition being held each week, what judges we see depend on what show we attend. It is quite possible that you will recognize certain judges from previous weeks, and of course there are certain judges we would prefer to see, but it really is a random process. No judge expects a group to be perfect. However, when an error is made, the judge would like to see a student make a smooth correction, and continue one with the performance. Many times, a quick recovery can be a plus that crosses out the negative of the mistake, since it is a good reflection of the training the student has received. The judges do not know exactly what it is that the group is supposed to be doing, so the members are trained not to “broadcast” (usually by facial expressions or body language) the fact that a mistake was just made. After all, there are a lot of people doing a lot of things all at one time, and the judge can’t watch everything all at once.

Parent support and Responsibilities

The support of your student’s participation in this and all their scholastic activities is invaluable. Positive reinforcement and encouragement of success are vital keys to providing your student and yourselves as parents with the most rewarding experience. Many parents have asked what their roles can be in the activity. In conjunction with the marching band booster organization, there are many things for parents to do, and without their help, our program would not be able to function.

Handlers- Trying to pack up a competitive group and take them to another location to perform is no small task. We use a truck to transport all our equipment and props to the competition. The truck has to be loaded and unloaded to and from the competition. We also need help getting on and off the gym floor to compete. We are under time limits that include getting everything into the gym, performing,

and getting everything out of the gym all within 8 minutes. In addition of instruments and props the group also uses a tarp to cover the floor during their performance and takes a lot of people power to put it down on the floor, and then get it out of the gym after the performance. **THE MORE PEOPLE WE HAVE HELPING IN THIS AREA, THE EASIER IT IS!!!**

Support Leads – These positions need a parent lead to coordinate.

- **Winter Percussion Chaperone Coordinator**
- **Winter Percussion Equipment Truck/Trailer Coordinator**
- **Winter Percussion Food/Water Coordinator**
- **Winter Percussion Parent Liaison**
- **Winter Percussion Photographer**
- **Sets and Prop Builder WP**
- **Sets and Tarp Painting Coordinator WP**
- **Winter Percussion Uniform Coordinator**

Prop Builders and Equipment repairs- We usually need to have things made for our shows such as platforms, backdrops, props, etc. we also need weekly maintenance done on these items.

Spectators- It is always more fun to perform before a loud crowd of supporters than a “polite” audience. The more family and friends we have in the audience, the more exciting it is for the members. We also ask that you support your child’s interest in the activity. It takes up a lot of time, but it really is a worthwhile activity. The rewards are really incredible.

Staff Contact Information

The staff has been selected due to their extensive qualifications in the marching arts. If at any point you have a general concern or a question

about any aspect of the program, please communicate with the staff. We believe that communication between parents, students, and the indoor staff is **crucial** to the success of the program!

Director

Derek Wilkerson

Mr. Mike Kreeger

Phone: 720-366-2695

Phone:

E-mail: derek-wilkerson@hotmail.com

E-mail: mike.kreeger@bvsd.org

Reviewed and consulted by: Connor F. McKenzie Degree in Human Resources and Business.

2009-2010 Code of Conduct / INDOOR CONTRACT

I, _____ hereby certify that I have read and understand the contents of this handbook and Code of Conduct. I recognize and fully understand the rules and regulations by which I may participate, and I am prepared to face the consequences of violating the content of this and BHS handbooks Code of Conduct.

I accept the condition that my commitment will create a position specifically designed for me in the 2009-2010 indoor show. I therefore enter into this contract in good faith that I will fulfill the entire duration of the competition season. I do not enter into this contract carelessly or superficially, but with sincere commitment, dedication, and integrity.

Student Signature

Date:

I hereby certify that I have read and understand the contents of this handbook. I recognize and understand the rules and regulations by which my child may participate, and I acknowledge that he/she will have to face the consequences of violating the contents of this handbook and Code of Conduct.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date:

!!!THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED BY DECEMBER 1, 2009!!!