

So you want to be Drum Major or Student Leader...

The first breath a choir, orchestra, or band takes together, a breath filled with focus, intention, and emotion, a breath unified for no other reason than to make something beautiful together... that is the reason we do what we do.

--Eric Whitacre

Read this article: What makes a good Drum Major? <https://drummajor.org/good-drum-major>

Review these videos (and search for more videos on Drum Major auditioning):

•How to Conduct (the conducting window) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6gnoTZ0xJ4&t=26s>

•Conducting 2/4, 3/4, 4/4 meters

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79Pk-33R2HM> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DdvHUJ88tao>

•Drum Major conducting <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xWnPat6coPA>

How to apply to be Drum Major...

1) Write a letter to Dr. Spano stating your interest in becoming Drum Major. Answer the following questions:

- a) Why you want the position?
- b) What qualifications do you possess to be a great Drum Major?
- c) What goals do you have for yourself and the Band next year?
- d) What makes a Drum Major a great leader?
- e) How will you maintain discipline and group morale?

2) Conduct the Band - you will be asked to conduct the National Anthem and Don't Stop Me Now (beginning to measure 27).

Link to Don't Stop Me Now video/audio: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dCU2pcjvIYU>

Link to National Anthem video/audio: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LGvW6jHUHiY>

Link to National Anthem, marching band/drum major: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5opHj_mc5lk

3) Interview with Dr. Spano.

4) The Band will conduct a vote by ballot, but the ultimate decision will be made by Dr. Spano.

Pointers:

--Remember, you've been auditioning since the day you joined Band. What have you done to prove your leadership, to grow your skills, and to improve your own musicianship?

--Practice conducting with recordings online and with other students who can give you feedback.

--Be sure to answer each question above in your letter to Dr. Spano.

How to apply to be a Section Leader or Student Leader, including Band Manager, Music Library Crew Leader, Band Crew Leader...

1) Write a letter to Dr. Spano stating your interest in becoming a Student Leader. Answer the following:

- a) Which position are you interested in applying for, and why you want the position? If you can open to any of the available positions, state your interest in general.
- b) What qualifications do you possess to be a great Student Leader?
- c) What goals do you have for yourself and the Band next year?
- d) What makes a student a great leader?
- e) How will you help maintain discipline and group morale?

2) Interview with Dr. Spano.

LETTERS ARE DUE BY MONDAY, MARCH 19

Requirements for all Student Leaders:

- 1) Will be in 10th, 11th, or 12th grade for the 2018-19 school year.
- 2) Demonstrated leadership skills in Band and other activities.
- 3) Demonstrated excellence in musicianship on your main instrument.
- 4) Maintain academic eligibility (GPA 2.0 and above, no F's or D's).
- 5) Drum Major - Conducting skills appropriate for the music being performed.
- 6) Section Leaders - traditionally is the principal player in the section, but isn't necessarily guaranteed to that individual. Outstanding musicianship is key, as well as demonstrated leadership ability and potential.
- 7) Commitment to attend all Zero Periods, Friday and Saturday rehearsals, football games, and all school/community events. Certainly there may be conflicts, illness, etc, but full commitment to attend all practices and performances is required and expected of any student leader.

For the Drum Major audition, be prepared to give any of these commands...

Centaur Band Commands

COMMAND

RESPONSE

Counts

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Band	<i>rest</i>	Ten	Hut	GO	CEN-	TAURS!	<i>rest</i>
Band	<i>rest</i>	Horns	Up	ONE!	<i>rest</i>	<i>rest</i>	<i>rest</i>
Band	<i>rest</i>	Horns	Down	(down)	<i>rest</i>	<i>rest</i>	<i>rest</i>
Mark	time	mark	<i>rest</i> (&/heel up) (heel down)				
For - ward-----	march	<i>rest</i> (&/foot up)		(step off/foot down – left)			

Also: Whistle (4 counts)

Band	Halt - And	Rea-dy	(CHECK-&)	(CLOSE)
Band	<i>rest</i>	Pa- rade	Rest (and)	(set)

Culver City High School Student Leader Contract

Name _____ Instrument(s) _____

Current Grade _____ Approximate current GPA _____

It is understood that if I am selected to be Drum Major, Section Leader, or Band Council member, I will be expected to:

- Support the Band Director and entire Band program with dedication and commitment.
- Not miss any rehearsal, performance, or function of the Band except for severe illness or appropriate circumstances.
- Uphold the highest possible standards as set for all Band members.
- Participate in all special Band events (Pep Band, special performances, etc.)
- Demonstrate the highest level of musicianship throughout the entire year.
- If not chosen, I will assume my regular role in the Band and give full cooperation to the other members selected and Director/Staff.

I agree to follow the above policies and the policies of the Marching Band. I understand that failure to do so may result in my being remove from the leadership position bestowed upon me.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

I agree to help my student follow the above policies and the policies of the Marching Band.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____