

April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**To: All 2017 Lawrence Township High School Percussion Students and Incoming Freshmen**

**From:** S. Yoder, N. Bushey

Percussion spring training will start May 2<sup>nd</sup> for 8<sup>th</sup> graders/new members and May 11<sup>th</sup> for the entire group. It is crucial that students interested in joining the MPLT percussion section plan to attend all required sessions. During those rehearsals we will assign positions in the Lawrence Township Percussion Section and we will culminate our training and placements by May 16<sup>th</sup>. Final placement in the section for the entire marching season will be determined through attendance and participation in these spring rehearsal/technique sessions and your availability during the Fall marching season.

The purpose of these rehearsals is to give students a chance to get to know each other, but moreover it gives the staff the chance to assess each student's technical ability, experience, teamwork, and general eagerness to learn more advanced skills. Because each area of the percussion section has its own specific skill sets, we will focus in four different study areas: Snare Drum, Tenors, Bass Drum, and the Front Ensemble.

Every new student will receive recommendations as to which area they should focus on and will be **given music to learn prior to the first rehearsal**. (*These recommendations will be based upon Band Director recommendations, length of participation in private lessons, and observations of the student in performance in order to fully assess their motivation level and acquisition of skill sets in percussion.*)

In order to insure fairness in the selection process, here are some basic points students should remember:

- **We (the staff) want every student who is interested to be part of the percussion section.** We will give you every opportunity to prove yourself and receive help from us.
- **We (the staff) expect all students of the group to be organized, punctual, and well prepared for all musical assignments.**
- **DON'T ASSUME your position in the section is automatic. ATTENDANCE IS CRUCIAL TO GET EXPERIENCE AND INFORMATION.** If a conflict arises, such as a game in a SPRING SPORT, you need to communicate the conflict to Mr. Yoder (LC students) or Mr. Bushey (LN students) well in advance either by phone or email before the conflict date. (*The phone numbers and address' are listed at the end of this letter*). Keeping the lines of communication open will help the staff to get to know you faster, help to keep your learning on pace with the rest of the section, and aid the staff with placing you in the area where you can be most successful.
- **Be on time to every engagement.** (The expectation is that all percussionists need to arrive early in order to set up all instruments and be mentally ready to start at the downbeat.)
- **BE FLEXIBLE AND UNSELFISH.** We are a **GROUP** and having the best section possible is the priority. (*The staff reserves the right to redirect any student to a different area of the section at any time if the student falls behind the rest of their study area and their performances levels are hindering the growth of other students OR if their skill sets are more appropriately matched to a different section in the group*).

- **PRACTICE** and **MEMORIZE** the exercises and music given to you outside of rehearsal. It is critical that the “building blocks” for your success are put in place now in order to have an enjoyable fall season.
- **BE REALISTIC** about yourself, your skills, and what you can contribute to the success of the section.

### Percussion Spring Training Schedule

**\*All rehearsals will take place in the Lawrence North High School Performing Arts area. (Enter through door number 16 on the South end of the building.)**

**Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

6:30-8:30pm @ Lawrence North (\*Help session for 8th graders and brand new members only)

**Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**

6:30-8:30pm @ Lawrence North (\*Help session for 8th graders and brand new members only)

**Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>**

6:30-8:30pm @ Lawrence North (All prospective members required)

**Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>**

6:30-8:30pm @ Lawrence North (All prospective members required)

If you have any questions, you can contact us using the information below.

We look forward to seeing all of you!!!!

**Steve Yoder**

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