

As our school year is coming to an end I'm sure marching season is the furthest thing from everyone's mind, but it will be here before you know it. As I do each year I just wanted to touch base with everyone in hopes of helping you prepare for the upcoming season. Even if you're a senior or veteran player please read through this as there are several new things for the 2017 / 2018 year.

We have many new members joining us this year both in the battery and in the front ensemble. I'm sure I speak on behalf of the entire group when I say we are all extremely happy to have you playing with us this year. The percussion section is a "family within the family" of the band and we look forward to welcoming our newest players into the group. As always I will be overseeing the workings of the battery and the front ensemble. This year we will be welcoming a new instructor to staff for the front ensemble. I hope you will join Mr. B and I in making her feel right at home.

The music for this year's show is currently being written. As the parts are completed they will be posted to the band's website - www.freemanband.org - so please check in regularly and print off your parts. The sooner you get your music the sooner you can start practicing. My goal is for the majority of parts to be learned BEFORE camp so we can spend our time cleaning and not cramming notes.

BAND CAMP

For the new members I have included a list of essential items you'll need for camp. Most of these are common sense but are sometimes overlooked.

- • a hat
- • sunscreen
- • sunglasses
- • water - and lots of it
- • eat a solid breakfast (grabbing a donut at 7-11 on your way in doesn't count)
Not eating breakfast = passing out....trust me, we see it every year
- • Lunch. You may not leave the school grounds at any point.
- • Sensible shoes - no flip flops, no Crocs, no boots. Athletic shoes and socks please.
- • Sensible clothing - sweat pants and a hoodie in 90 degrees isn't smart. Don't be that guy.
- • a three ring binder with clear plastic pages for your music.
- • a pencil....or 10.
- • AN AWESOME ATTITUDE!

All percussionists are **REQUIRED** to have a stick bag with all necessary sticks and mallets. This will be part of your daily grade. Clarinet players have to buy their instrument and reeds, you're no different. I'll include a list of recommended items and a site from which to get them. You can go to Guitar Center or Sam Ash but you'll pay more and you won't find what you really need.

Snare sticks

Marching Sticks – Innovative Percussion FS-IJ

Concert Sticks - Innovative Percussion IP-1

Concert Sticks - Innovative Percussion IP-JC

Concert Sticks - Innovative Percussion IP-LD

I always recommend getting several pairs of snare sticks as they have a tendency to mysteriously disappear.

Yarn Mallets

Innovative Percussion F1

Rubber Mallets

Innovative Percussion F9

Hard Plastic Mallets
Innovative Percussion F12

Timpani Mallet
Innovative Percussion GT-3

Stick / Mallet Bag
That's up to you. Protect your investment!

Bundles / Packages
Innovative Percussion and several other companies also offer pre-packaged bundles that have the above mentioned sticks and mallets, usually at a bit of a savings.
Innovative Percussion FP-2

The best source I've found over the years for anything percussion related has been Steve Weiss Music in Philadelphia. I always recommend supporting a family owned store as opposed to the big, box stores.

<http://www.steveweissmusic.com>

I hope you're all looking forward to this season as much as I am. I trust everyone will have an enjoyable summer. Get some sun, some rest and enjoy your time off but be ready to hit the ground running come August.

Thanks!
Matt Goves,
Percussion Instructor