

# 2025 MHS Percussion Audition Packet

Welcome!

Thank you for expressing interest in the Mandeville High School band! We're excited to have you as a part of this wonderful organization!

High school marching band is an incredible and worthwhile experience. While quite a leap in expectations and difficulty of music, your enjoyment and satisfaction from playing also greatly increases. While in our program, you will learn a wide range of skills both related to music and general life skills like time management, long term skills development, and leadership skills.

## **Expectations:**

The drumline and front ensemble are two sections in the MHS band who have a strong desire to raise the bar every year. All our members put a lot of work and dedication into this ensemble. With that being said, you must give 100% effort as a part of these sections. Practice (with a metronome) is a must! **Additionally, attendance for ALL band rehearsals, sectionals, and events (including football games and band competitions) is required.**

## **About MHS Percussion:**

The Mandeville High drumline marches snare drums, tenors (with six drums), and 5 tonal bass drums (meaning split bass drum parts). The tenors and bass drums play with match grip technique, while snares are expected to use traditional grip technique. All the instruments on the drumline march during the band's competition show.

The Front Ensemble is a group of percussionists that are a part of the competition show on pitched percussion instruments (Marimba, Vibraphone, Synth, etc.) and non-marching unpitched percussion (Drum set, gong, concert bass drum, tambourine, shaker, maracas, etc.) If you are feeling overwhelmed, don't worry. One of the percussion instructors will help guide you to the instrument/section where you will be the most successful.

For Football games, parades, and school events not related to the competition marching show, the members of both the drumline and front ensemble will form a large "Spirit" drumline that will play reduced difficulty parts from the competition parts and offer all students fundamental practice on the drumline instruments. This means all students, regardless of their competition placement will still be provided the opportunity to learn, develop, and perform on the highly competitive drumline instruments.

### **Required Materials:**

-Sticks, preferably marching snare sticks (Bass drum and front ensemble mallets are provided). Our preferred model is the Innovative FS-JC, but any marching stick will be fine for audition day.

-A practice pad. You may not have access to an instrument all the time, so this will give you something to practice on.

-A metronome. An iPhone/Android app will work.

-A Binder with Page Protectors. You will store ALL of the music given to you in this binder (including the music in this packet).

-A pencil (required at ALL sectionals and rehearsals, including clinics and audition day).

-Comfortable clothing and sneakers (definitely helps out during long sectionals and rehearsals).

## Full Ensemble

**Technique –** Used for timing and velocity. When playing, front ensemble should be moving the mallet from playing position, into the key, and then back to playing position as fast as possible. Battery should be playing heavy downstrokes with a large prep.

## Front Ensemble

*Anyone interested in the rhythm section in the Front ensemble (bass, guitar, piano, and drum set) will be playing accompanying parts to these warmups.*

**6-3-2-1 -** Front ensemble's basic warmup that works on mallet heights and timing. This exercise starts on octave Cs and moves up, then back down chromatically. 6-3-2-1 will be played with 2 and 4 mallets (The only mallets that will be used for this exercise when holding 4 mallets is mallets 2 and 3).

**Blue Scales -** Front ensemble scale exercise that helps with speed as well as note accuracy. It consists of 16<sup>th</sup> notes moving between the 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> scale degrees. Will be played with 2 and 4 mallets.

## Battery

*For all battery exercises, quads will play the full exercise on drum 2 as well as the arounds that are written. For bass drums, 8-8-16 will be played unison as well as split with 2s 3s and 4s*

**8-8-16 -** Like the Front Ensemble's warmup 6-3-2-1, this exercise works on legato strokes. The goal is to achieve even 8<sup>th</sup> notes and consistent sounds. Quads will have variations to work on movement around the drums and bass drums will have variations to work on 2s, 3s, and 4s.

**Spring -** Triplet based double beat exercise. Everyone will play the unison line, quads have additional arounds.

**Gallop -** Double stroke exercise that moves the double to different 8<sup>th</sup> note partials.

During auditions, we will be playing mostly as a group. However, we may ask for individual auditions at any point so make sure you are familiar with the material or to break ties between positions on instruments. We're looking for consistent timekeeping, good technique, dynamics and musicality, reading ability, and the depth of your rhythmic and rudimental vocabulary. Confident performances are also a plus, but we understand nerves are always a factor in individual performances. We're NOT looking for who can play the fastest, the loudest, or the most "perfect."

Other things that we are also looking for during clinics/auditions include (in no particular order):

- Timeliness
- Positive attitudes
- Preparation
- Percussion vocabulary
- Technique
- Timing
- Musicality
- Ability to quickly adopt new information
- Good rehearsal etiquette

**Dates and Times:**

**Clinics** will take place Monday-Thursday, April 28-30, 2025 after school from 5:30pm-7:30pm

**Audition** day for all members is Thursday May 1, 2025 after school, starting at 5:30pm.

If you have any further questions about the packet or the audition process, please contact the band director Rossi Dibenedetto or our percussion instructor, James Kennedy, at the emails listed below.

Rossi Dibenedetto: Rossi.Dibenedetto@stpsb.org

James Kennedy: James.Kennedy@stpsb.org

Keyboards

# 6-3-2-1

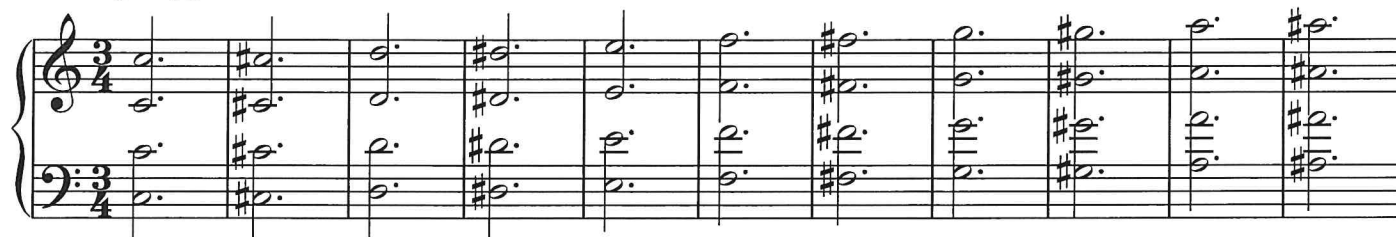
♩ = 90



Piano

# 6-3-2-1

♩ = 90



# Blue Scales

All Mallets

♩ = 60 - 120



Repeat in all  
major keys



# 8-8-16

♩ = 125, 140

Snare

4/4

R R R R R R R R L L L L L L L L R R R R R R R R R R R R R R

Tenor

4/4

R R R R R R R R L L L L L L L L R R R R R R R R R R R R R R

Arounds

R R R R R R R R L L L L L L L L R R R R R R R R R R R R R R

Bass

4/4

5

S. D.

4/4

L L L L L L L L R R R R R R R R L L L L L L L L L L L L L L R

T. D.

4/4

L L L L L L L L R R R R R R R R L L L L L L L L L L L L L L R

B. D.

4/4



# Spring

♩. = 130

Unison **12/8** R R R R R R R R R R R R R R L R

Quad arounds **12/8** R R R R R R R R R R R R R R L R

Cymbals **12/8** ♯. x. ♯. x. ♯. x. ♯. x.

3

Unison L L L L L L L L L L L L L L R R R R R R R R L R

Quads L L L L L L L L L L L L L L R R R R R R R R L R

Cym. ♯. x. ♯. x. ♯. x. ♯. x. A B A B

6

Unison L L L L L L L L L L R R R L R L L L R L R R R L R L L L R L

Quads L L L L L L L L L L R R R L R L L L R L R R R L R L L L R L

Cym. A B A B ♯. ♯. ♯. ♯. ♯. ♯.

9

Unison R R R L L L R R R L L L R R L L R R L L R R L L R

Quads R R R L L L R R R L L L R R L L R R L L R R L L R

Cym. ♯. ♯. ♯. ♯. ♯. ♯. ♯. ♯. ♯. ♯.

## Unison

# Gallop

♩ = 130

R L R L R L R L | R L R L R L R L | R L R L R L R L | R L R L R L R L

[illegible]