

Marching Basics  
for  
Small School Bands

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## Marching Basics for Small School Bands

Marching Basics are fundamental

The more comfortable the student is with his physical assignment the better he will play his instrument.

Just as in playing, marching basics need to be reinforced daily.

Make a decision. It does not matter how your band looks as long as EVERYONE does it the same way.

- Attention
- Parade rest
- Horns up and horns down
- Mark Time
- Step off
- Close
- Backup
- Transition from forward to backward
- Flanks

Be Meticulous: decide on every aspect for the marching member.

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Light stretches for marching band.

See your athletic people for some easy light stretches to use with the band before marching begins.

Easy “catch” words or phrases that make marching easier and less time consuming.

- Feet together- the kids can feel this and really can't mess it up.
- Pull the string- the goal is to create distance between the pelvis and the ribs
- The “Box” & the “Triangle” - easy way to check horn alignment
- Eyebrows
- OK sign for shoulder alignment
- Body alignment- make sure hips and shoulders are aligned
- & 1- easy way to check step off's
- It's all about knees- keep knees straight to get toes up
- Platform on 8
- Nordic Track- easy way to describe backward march
- Tondeau - transition from forward to back
- Rock & Roll - transition from back to forward
- Hip swivel - way to describe various turns
- Flips - how to turn from forward to back marching

We find it best to use a metronome on ALL aspects of marching. Not only will the timing in the ensemble improve, you will find that the metronome enables the rehearsal to run faster and smoother.

Above all:

**HAVE FUN**