

Marching Evaluation and Advanced Fundamentals

Marching Band Evaluation

Rationale

- Sets standards and expectations
- Give the students feedback (areas of strength, areas of improvement)
- Having realistic numbers for the drill writer
- Promotes shared spots - options for more participation (Friday group/Saturday group)
- Offers eligibility protection
- Eliminates the word "alternate", replaces with "shared spots"

Implementation

- Make the drill easy (FM 32, halt, left box 32, right box 32)
- Make the music easy (whole note/rest, 2 half note/rest, 4 quarters/rest, 8 eighths/rest)
- Groups of 4 mixed (high ww, low ww, high brass, low brass)

Scoring

- 5 Captions
- Upper Body, Lower Body, Pulse, Drill, Music
- Score 1,2 ,or 3 in each category
- 1 = superior, should have their own spot
- 2 = good, should share a spot
- 3 = improvement needed (not ready for the field yet)
- 5 scores determine overall (1,2,2,1,1 = 1 overall)

Timeline

- Incoming 8th Grade Clinic – sometime in late spring (do not interfere with MS events)
- Full Future Band – usually the next to last week of school
- Mini-camp in late May/early June – learn fundamental marching/playing exercises
- Allow Students to retake the test multiple times

Advanced Marching Fundamentals

Average Tempo Prep

- Tempos under 160
- Activate on 8, step on "te" of 8

Advanced Tempo Prep

- Tempos above 160
- Activate on 7, step on 8

Slide Relays

- From front sideline
- Window Panes up on 5-6, 7, 8 (engage) & 1 - moderate tempo
- Step off every 16 counts
- Lead shoulder forward - no negative energy by pulling back other shoulder
- A's & B's pairs - touch lead shoulder of the person sliding if they start to get out of upper body alignment

Zigzag Drill (4 variations)

- Line up sternum
- Slight freeze on 8-te (stab toe first)
- Use inward touch on transitions
- Body Center or BOD (Body on dot)
- **Variation 1 Basic**
 - Line up on yard lines
 - 8, 8, 8, 8, halt
- **Variation 2 Mesh**
 - Line up on yard lines
 - The "0" yard lines zigzag left
 - The "5" yard lines zigzag right
 - The "te" of 2,4,6 should be cover down
 - Count 8 (mesh) is body center
 - Use adjusted step size
 - Then 5 sets of 8
- **Variation 3 Backward Slide/Forward march**
 - Zigzag w/Backward Slide and Forward March
 - BOD on 2,4,6 and 8 (slides)
- **Variation 4 Forward Slide/Backward March**
 - Zigzag w/Forward Slide then Backward March

Flip-Flops - Basic

- Window Panes – sternum parallel to sideline
- 4 groups of 8
- Close to front
- Strong upper bodies

Flip Flop Relays

- A's and B's - helpers
- 4 sets of 8

Triangle Drill

- You will go oblique for 16 steps and right 8
- Step size will be slightly larger than an 8 to 5
- After 4 counts you will be 2 steps outside the yard line on which you started
- After 8 counts you will be 4 steps outside the yard line on which you started and 8 steps forward, exactly halfway
- After 12 counts you will be 2 steps inside the destination yard line
- At 16 counts you will hit your mark transition right for 8
- You will backward march for 16 to end up where you started

Triangle Drill Relay

- Set up every 10 yards
- Relay every 8 counts
- Loop the relay
- Stop occasionally to check body center of arrival points

3 Point Turn

- Turn in 3 counts in order to "spot" on 4
- Left turn is "LT close"
- Right turn is "TL close"
- Cycle it back and forth

Turn on the Move

- 16 counts
- 13, 14, 15, spot (corner, corner, front)
- Maintain step size
- 4 ways (FM turn L, FM turn R, BM turn L, BM turn R)

Turn on the Move Oblique

- Use triangle exercise
- Introduce later during the season – very difficult

You could add lunges or body movement to the beginning or the end of any exercise.

Create your own exercises for the marching vocabulary needed on any year.

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