



Marching Band Techniques for the Small School

CLINICIAN:
Jim Rhodes

DEMONSTRATION GROUP:
Forsan High School Marching Band

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Texas Bandmasters Association 2014 Convention/Clinic



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JULY 27-30, 2014
HENRY B. GONZALEZ CONVENTION CENTER
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Marching Band Techniques for the Small School

Texas Bandmasters Association Convention

2014

Forsan High School Band

Jim Rhodes – Misty Moellendorf

Directors

2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Monday, July 28

CC Hall D

Interesting Facts about the Forsan Marching Band Program:

1. Our band averages 120 students, grades 9-12.
2. Forsan employs one full time Assistant Band Director.
3. There are 2 Drum Majors and usually between 8-13 in the Color Guard.
4. Band meets 3rd period for 47 minutes each day.
5. Monday night marching band practice is from 7:00-9:00 p.m. until contests are over.
6. There are no early morning, lunchtime, or after school section rehearsals.
7. The band participates in one Marching Festival every year and one Pre-UIL Marching Contest.
8. Music arrangements are contracted from Barry Hurt Music and the drill is written by Mr. Tim Kelley of Wayland Baptist University in Plainview.
9. The Clinician for the Marching Band every year is Dan Gibbs of Monahans. Other contracted Clinicians on a State Marching year are Jeff Whitaker, John Carroll, and Paul Garza from Odessa Permian, Gerardo Loya, Nathan Cheney, Chris Dimas from Monahans, Chans Moellendorf from Ozona, and Darren Weaver.
10. During June, a three day Percussion Camp is required and taught by John Carroll of Odessa Permian High School and a three day Color Guard camp is required and taught by Amy Alejandro from Dallas in July.
11. Summer Band is one week long, two weeks before school starts. Sectionals are scheduled Monday through Thursday throughout the day, for an hour and a half. All music and marching fundamentals are taught during this time, all indoors. Full band meets on Friday from 10:30 to Noon to put the music all together. We do not meet again until the first day of school. No drill is taught during Summer Band.
12. Each student must playoff their show music by memory to a Director or Playoff Captain. Then it is recorded on a chart that is posted in the Band Hall. They may also playoff music in groups of 4 or 5. I give them time to playoff music at the beginning of third period rehearsal at various times.
13. Grading Policy- Marching Band for me is all about: ATTENDENCE 60%, ATTITUDE/BEHAVIOR 30%, and PLAYING 10%. Students receive a 100 for attending a rehearsal/performance. Students receive a 50 if they miss but tell us a good enough excuse. Students receive a 0 if they miss and tell us nothing. There are always special circumstances we wave our hand over and don't penalize the students for missing. Students also receive a daily grade for 3rd period band every day.

Marching Fundamentals We Teach:

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Attention | 10. Mark Time | 19. Change of Direction |
| 2. Step-offs | 11. Drag Turns | 20. Pod Formations |
| 3. Glide Step | 12. Backward Marching | 21. Horn & Body Flashes |
| 4. 8 to 5 Step Size | 13. Right & Left Slides | 22. Scatter Drills |
| 5. Halts | 14. Boxes | 23. Reading a Drill Chart |
| 6. Spacing | 15. Adjusted Step | 24. Footwork/visuals |
| 7. Cover down | 16. Arriving to Sets early or late | |
| 8. Horn Carriage | 17. Leans | |
| 9. Terminology | 18. Crab Step for Percussion | |

Teaching Drill:

1. Drill is taught on a gridded pavement and each student is given a drill chart.
2. Directors and Adult helpers are positioned in key areas to help teach drill.
3. Music flip folders are used to mark spots as drill is learned.
4. Much repetition is needed by marching and playing set to set.
5. Drill is then transferred to the turf stadium.

Warm-up Arcs to Rehearse Music:

Pit Percussion

**Cymbals, Quads, Snare, Basses
Trumpets, Trombones, Baritones, Tuba
Horns, Saxes, Clarinets, Flutes**

1. We start each outside rehearsal in block band formation for roll check purposes.
2. After roll check, we mark time to the Bb scale in block band and then play Concert F standing still. This may be repeated several times.
3. Announcements are then made.
4. We then mark time to a drum cadence. This may also be repeated.
5. Next we march a right and left box with horns down, then up.
6. Sometimes we face the end zone and practice 8 to 5 marching to get our stride and alignment better.
7. We also practice right and left slides.

Contest Day Ideas:

I carry a small notepad with things written down that I want to accomplish during the warm-up time. Sometimes it's hard to think when stress is high and I want to cover many things before our performance.

EXAMPLE: (things you can do when the red flag is up) explain the red flag/green flag system for those in regions that don't use it)

1. Get in your warm-up arcs
2. Check uniforms/hats/plumes
3. Stretching/twisting at the waste/lunges
4. Mark time
5. Horns – carrying position
playing position
press box position
6. Drag turns
7. Rolling feet
8. Backward Marching
9. Slides
10. Percussion Crab Step
11. Give instructions/last minute speeches

(green flag is up)

1. Warm-up/Concert F
2. Start/End each song
3. Rehearse special sections
4. Rehearse percussion spots
5. Rehearse Soloists/Small Groups
6. Tune

WE TRY REAL HARD TO MAKE IT EASY FOR STUDENTS TO BE IN BAND. We try not to cause conflicts with other things they are involved in and try to work around everyone's schedule when possible. We don't demand much rehearsal time from students outside of class but demand much from them during class. That's the tradeoff. I personally think that is why our retention from year to year is so great.