



Fundamental Concepts for Marching Band

CLINICIANS:

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DEMONSTRATION GROUP:

Hebron HS Marching Band

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**HENRY B. GONZALEZ CONVENTION CENTER
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**

Fundamental Concepts for Marching Band

Presented by: Hebron High School Band Staff and Students
Lewisville Independent School District

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Presentation Website: www.basicmarchingbandconcepts.weebly.com

What Do You Want the Ensemble to Look Like?

- It's a physical activity, some sort of summer band work out helps!
- What are you using as a role model for what the ensemble should look like?
- Do you have a plan written out to get you there? Scope and Sequence. Be flexible.
- What are the expectations you have for the marchers visually?
 - It's ok to have high expectations; they can do it!
- Do you have a systematic set of daily visual fundamentals that reinforce "the look"?
- Fundamental Exercises that can be modified with several variations
 - Step Place Close
 - 8 and 8's FM and BM also in slides
 - Tendu/ Rond de Jambe exercise
 - Balance Exercise
 - Lunges, Pliés, Relevés
 - Turret Exercise
 - Direction Changes
 - Box Drill
- Keep exercises simple so you can spend more time focusing on the actual fundamental, and then layering on a modification as they master the basic fundamental.

What Do You Want the Ensemble to Sound Like?

Basic questions for deliberation

- What are you using as a role model in "your mind's ear" for the sound of the ensemble?
- Is your ensemble sound concept the same for both the indoor setting and the outdoor environment? What are your expectations regarding the marching band's commitment to basic balances, blends, and transparencies? Are you exploiting all the colors of the outdoor ensemble? What is your acoustic sound palette?
- What is your expectation of the woodwinds section?
- What is your expectation of the of the brass section?
- What is your expectation of the percussion section?
- Do you have a systematic set of daily drill fundamentals to create and refine the sound you desire for the marching band?

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Developing Daily Ensemble Fundamentals – Basic Musicianship

Daily Drill - Fundamentals – Warm Ups

- Development of a useful and flexible set of fundamental exercises that emphasize tonal concepts that align with your concept of sound.
- Various series available commercially inspired by the drum corps activity or develop your own.
- Staff and student leaders should use identical vocabulary with regards to styles, articulation, and central concepts.
- Suggested items to include in Daily Drill/Fundamentals/Warm-up.
 - Breathing Exercises-Deliberate exercises for air capacity and tension free breaths
 - Breathing tubes or other breathing tool
 - Long Tones (Remington F Descending and Ascending, Long Tone F “Follow Through” in F, Bb, and C. Rotating Remington, Remington and “Follow Through” in 5ths
 - Air Flow Studies
 - Lip Slurs of increasing difficulty
 - Technique - Major Scales and Arpeggios with articulation and Chromatic Scale
 - Articulation Check Patterns for styles and some double tonguing development
 - Chromatic Scale (w/articulation variations)
 - Chorale-Chorale subdivided for articulation/style variations
 - Sing and buzz (lip vibrations) fundamentals

Strategies for the Marching Season

Summer Band

- Meet with and rehearse fundamentals with your top ensemble and/or leadership students daily or a couple of times a week during Summer Band Camp. Use this group as a sonic modeling tool for the other performers.
 - Stress tonal concepts, breathing, woodwind and brass choir concepts
 - Emphasize “don’t play louder than” your first chair player. Then expand that concept to “don’t play louder than” the top band, or student leadership. Match the first chair’s volume but don’t exceed that volume.
 - Stress basic concept of uniformity of sound player to player. Equal contribution performer to performer. Match tone, pitch, and tone color.
 - Constantly be sending the message that the way students sound on their instrument individually is critical. Insist that the instruments sound the way you want them to.
 - Rotate students from “Concert Instruments” to “Marching Instruments” back and forth on the same fundamentals to stress the relationship of sounding terrific on each instrument (Horn to Mellophone or Marching Baritone to Euphonium).
 - Send the message constantly about balance and pitch matching.
- As the head director or music caption head spend some time everyday in front of at least some portion of the marching band reinforcing ensemble concepts.

In the Concert Arc

- Breathing
- In the “Marching Band Concert Arc” set-up call and response patterns between the top ensemble and the rest of the winds, or first chairs and the rest of the winds.
- Pitch matching player-to-player and section-to-section.
- Outdoor source of pitch on the field.
- Expansion of call and response patterns.
- Expansion of singing and lip vibrations.
- Different dynamic levels in your fundamentals.
- Varying tempos.
- Continued emphasis on breathing skills and then trying to place in context.
- Utilizing the role modeling of top players.
- Incorporating “Step-Outs” on everything.

Integration of Daily Drill/Music Fundamentals with Movement/Visual Block Fundamentals

- Step-Outs with basic lip slur for brass and major scale and arpeggio for woodwinds
- Concert F Starts and Stops 8x8
- Concert F Remington with Forward 8 Backwards 4
- Concert F Follow Through (ascending and descending) with basic slides flat to front
- Increasing difficulty level sequentially
 - Concert F Starts and Stops with pli 
 - Concert F Remington with pli 
 - Rotating Concert F Remington with lunges and pli 
 - Basic Balance Exercise with F scale ascending and descending

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