



# J.P. Taravella Band Program

Neil Jenkins, Director  
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10600 Riverside Drive  
Coral Springs, FL 33071  
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[www.jptmusic.org](http://www.jptmusic.org)



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## Drum Major Application

**Eligibility:** To be eligible for Drum Major, applicant must be an incoming Junior or Senior, a member of the Marching Band *each year* that they have been at JPT, and be in good standing with the Director(s). If you can not accept the reality that you may not be chosen, then you should not try out for this position. Your intentions must be for the good of the band, not for yourself.

**Date of Tryouts:** Check Band Web Site Calendar

**Requirements to be demonstrated:**

- All facets of marching, including but not limited to marking time (high and low), 8-to-5 step (forward and backward), slides, flanks, and turns.
- Conducting (A tape will be provided for the applicant to practice with and conduct to for tryouts. Applicant must demonstrate the ability to cue, keep accurate time, and use a beat pattern that can be seen and understood).
- A salute of your own creation is required. Keep it simple and short...you are not the show, the band is. Always remember that.
- Vocal Commands, including but not limited to: Attention, Parade Rest, Mark Time, Halt, Horns Up and Down, Counted Turns. Voice projection and clarity are important factors.

**The Role of the Drum Major:** The most important position in the marching band is that of the drum major. This person is the leader on the field. The drum major exemplifies the spirit, dignity, and bearing of the entire band, and therefore should possess these qualities to the highest degree.

**Duties of the Drum Major include but are not limited to:**

**A. Marching Rehearsals**

1. Consults with directors prior to each rehearsal for instructions concerning the rehearsal plan.
2. Leads the band through the warm up routine.
3. Assists directors in the teaching of marching drills.
4. Help individual band members with difficult sections of the drill when problems arise.
5. Acts as proper example for difficult maneuvers and military bearing
6. Maintains discipline at all times.

**B. Music Rehearsals**

1. Consult with director prior to each rehearsal and make every attempt to be thoroughly acquainted with all aspects of the music to be rehearsed, including conducting techniques and possible problems that may be encountered in rehearsal or performance.
  2. Lead the band through preliminary warm-up routine.
  3. Be prepared to take charge of specific groups for sectional rehearsals.
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## C. Performance

1. Take responsibility for making sure the band is assembled in the proper formation at the pre-designated time and place.
2. Take attendance and assist with general inspection.
3. Be responsible for moving the band from one area to another in an orderly fashion.
4. At football games, make sure that the band is seated in a pre-determined formation, and that order is maintained.
5. Conduct the band when they play pep tunes in the stands or at pep rallies.
6. Prior to a parade, become familiar with the parade route and be aware of the location of the reviewing stand.
7. Understand the fundamentals of military etiquette, and be prepared to render the proper salute when necessary.
8. Know when to bring the band and auxiliary units to attention.
9. Give all the commands during performances.
10. Conduct and control all aspects of the field show.
11. Set the perfect example at all times in dress, leadership, punctuality, alertness, precise marching, & esprit de corps.

## D. Training Sessions

During the final weeks of service, organize drum major training sessions to help prepare prospective candidates for Drum Major auditions. Tell them about your experiences, both good and bad, and make them understand what the position entails.

## Desirable Qualities of a Drum Major

- The individual should be intelligent, and should have the capability to think quickly under pressure.
  - A strong dedication to the band program by the individual is vital.
  - The individual's musical ability should be of the highest level.
  - The position is leadership-oriented; outstanding leadership qualities should be evident long before becoming drum major.
  - The candidate should possess a good personality and should get along well with others.
  - Candidate should be very dependable.
  - The Drum Major is placed in a conspicuous position and is subject to spectator criticism and therefore should "look" the part at all times.
  - Exhibiting a good attitude and encouraging good morale within the band is a major responsibility of the Drum Major.
  - The Drum Major must be enthusiastic in his/her dealings with the band.
  - The Drum Major must be prepared to take responsibility for any conduct on the field, in the stands, or at contest/festival sites.
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## Application for Drum Major Position

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade (next year) \_\_\_\_\_ Years in Band (count middle school) \_\_\_\_\_

Please list your conducting experiences \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Attach a separate sheet if necessary)

What leadership skills have you *already* brought to the Band? (i.e., tell me what you have done to earn this position):

Have you held a leadership position in any organization (including Band) before? (If yes, please elaborate):

Have you ever missed a Band rehearsal or performance, excused or unexcused? (If yes, please elaborate):

What plans do you have for the future of the Band, how can they be implemented, and what do you see as their long-term results?





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By returning this application you are showing that you understand what is being expected of you should you qualify for the position. A Drum Major is not expected to be at all rehearsals, he/she is **REQUIRED** to be at them all. There are no "free days" for the Drum Major, he or she is working all the time. You will be held to a much higher standard than you have ever been held before, and you will be asked to make numerous sacrifices for the good of the band program and your charges. Do not return this application unless you have absolutely no hesitations about what this position entails.

It is understood that if I am selected to Drum Major, I will be expected to:

1. Support the Band Directors and other Staff with the utmost dedication, devotion and loyalty.
2. Maintain a strong dedication to the **entire** band program.
3. **Will not miss any rehearsal, performances or functions of the band** except for **severe** illness or death in the family.
4. Up-hold the highest possible standards as set for all band members.
5. **Participate in all special band events** (pep band, special performances, etc.).
6. Demonstrate the **highest level of musicianship** throughout the entire year.
7. **If not chosen, I will assume my regular role in the band and give full cooperation to the other members selected and Director.**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email Address: (please print legibly) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Email Address: (please print legibly) \_\_\_\_\_

This application is due back to the Director on or before \_\_\_\_\_.

**Applications will not be accepted after the due date.**