



Creekview High School

Mustang Band

Perseverance  
Respect  
Integrity  
Discipline  
Excellence

## 2008-2009 Mustang Band Percussion Auditions

Welcome to the Creekview High School Mustang Band!!!

You are about to embark on a journey with the most successful organization in Creekview. The CHS Band has a long tradition of **EXCELLENCE** that will contribute greatly to your success in high school. Welcome to the band family!!

Included in this packet you will find specific information about our 2008-2009 percussion camps that are offered after school on **May 6-8, 15 & 19**. All camps will be held in the CHS band hall and will be from **5-6:30pm**. These camps are designed to help students select the right instruments to audition on and to help them develop the best habits for practicing on their own in preparation for their audition.

Percussion Auditions will take place on the following days:

**May 28- Snares and Tenors**

**May 29- Bass Drums**

**June 3- Front Ensemble**

The end times for the auditions may vary slightly and are dependent on the number of students who are auditioning for a specific instrument.

This is our opportunity to make sure you get placed in the correct Marching Band percussion section next year. Regardless of your audition placement, everyone participates in the Creekview High School Marching Band!!

In addition, during the Fall semester **all percussionists** will be placed in the percussion class regardless of where they place in the front ensemble or field battery. Auditions for concert band placement will take place in the month of November, more information on this will be available at a future date.

Percussion Auditions will be held for the following sections

**Field Battery:** This is what is commonly known as the "drumline". The Mustang battery is made up of three sections; **snare drums, quad toms** (also known as "tenors") and a **bass drum line**. Students who play these instruments are expected to march together on the field in addition to playing their music.

**Front Ensemble:** Sometimes referred to as the "pit", this is a percussion ensemble that plays their music from a stationary position, usually from the front sideline. The front ensemble is made up of many different percussion instruments including various keyboard instruments like the marimba, vibraphone, and xylophone as well as other auxiliary percussion instruments. The instruments and players in this ensemble add a very important voice to the overall show that cannot be reproduced by any other instrument on the field. The mallet auditions will determine your overall placement in the front ensemble either on a keyboard or on other auxiliary instruments.

We encourage all percussionists and double reed players to audition on the instruments of their choice. This audition process is very important to your individual development in band. You should choose to audition on the instrument that will inspire you to practice so that you can perform your audition with confidence and enthusiasm.

### **Students who marched in the battery last season-**

If you would like to be considered for the battery again next season, you must prepare an audition for the instrument you marched last season plus a separate battery instrument of your choice.

*(e.g.1 you marched bass drum last season and you want to try out for snare drum next season, you will need to prepare both a bass and snare audition. e.g.2 you marched snare drum last season and you want to stay on snare, you will need to prepare the snare audition plus one other battery instrument audition)*

### **Students who have never marched in the battery-**

**If you would like to be considered for a position on the field battery-** you will need to prepare an audition for one field battery instrument of your choice (snare, tenor or bass) plus an audition for the front ensemble (2 mallet & scales are required, 4 mallet is optional).

The goal here is to ensure that you are well prepared for both auditions so that we can determine the best situation for you and the marching band next semester.

### **Field Battery Auditions**

The auditions for the field battery will consist of several short fundamental exercises. It is required that all field battery auditions will be performed while marking time with a metronome set at the specified tempo. Memorization of the audition material is not required.

**Snare and tenor auditions-** So that we can better understand how well you perform with in a section and as an individual, the fundamental exercises will be performed in groups of two or three as well as individually. Both snare and tenor lines will use matched grip. You will be required to mark time during the audition process while playing with a metronome.

**Bass drum auditions-** While playing the bass drum in a battery section may not require the rudimental demands of playing on the snare or tenor lines, it is highly dependent upon the individual's ensemble skills. Since this is such an important skill, the auditions for bass drum will take place in groups of five. Students may be switched in and out of the groups during the audition to find the right combination of players to make the ensemble successful. For a successful audition it is highly recommended that you focus on learning the bass drum parts as a whole. Do this by learning and practicing the exercises in unison (practice each exercise like you were playing it on snare drum) and learning all of the individual drum parts separately. This will make you more versatile for the audition.

**Front Ensemble Auditions-** The audition process for the front ensemble will consist of major scales, a required two mallet etude and an optional four-mallet selection of your choice.

**Marimba & Vibraphone (optional)-** If you would like to be considered for a position on one of these instruments, you will need to choose and prepare a four-mallet piece or excerpt in addition to the two-mallet etude and scales. **Please keep this selection to a maximum of 1-1 ½ minutes in length.**

All mallet auditions will not be performed with a metronome and students will not be required to mark time, however, all required tempos must be appropriately observed. Memorization of the audition material is not required.

**Synthesizer, timpani and soundboard** positions will be carefully considered and appointed by Mr. Gibson after all students have auditioned.

### **Final Thoughts**

Please be sure that you are well prepared for this audition by using marching snare drum sticks and/or mallets. If you are going to audition for the drumline it is highly recommended that you purchase a pair of marching snare drum sticks if you have not done so already. **Snare drum-** Innovative Percussion FS-PR **Tenor and Bass Drum** you will be provided with mallets for the audition and you may use marching snare drum sticks for practice at home. **Mallet auditions,** any brand of medium or medium-hard yarn mallets will be acceptable. Please be sure that you are using a metronome when practicing these exercises so that you are a better prepared to perform them for the audition.

We are looking forward to hearing your WONDERFUL music May 28, 29 and June 3. You are going to have a great time being a part of the CHS Band family!!