



## **Leadership Audition Packet 2020-2021 School Year**

This year's leadership auditions will be in three phases. Phase 1 will be signing the attached leadership contract at the end of this packet. Phase 2 will include a video of all leadership candidates instructing how they would teach a marching skill. Phase 3 will include an online interview with the band directors. ALL DRUM MAJOR candidates MUST follow these procedures FIRST before you audition for drum major. Please read the information below carefully, and if you have any questions, please email Mr. Myers at [myersj@cfbisd.edu](mailto:myersj@cfbisd.edu).

### **Leadership Auditions Phase 1 - Leadership Contract (Due May 4<sup>th</sup>)**

Each leadership candidate must print out the contract located at the end of this packet. Each leader candidate must sign and date the contract as well as their parents. You then must scan the contract and send it to Mr. Myers at [myersj@cfbisd.edu](mailto:myersj@cfbisd.edu) by Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 11:59pm. You will not get a reminder for this contract. It is your responsibility to get this done!

### **Leadership Auditions Phase 2 - Teaching Video (Due May 8<sup>th</sup>)**

All leader candidates must submit a video of themselves teaching a marching skill. You may do this with a parent, sibling, or you may pretend someone is there with you. In this video you must go through each step of how you would teach someone who has never marched before. You will get two skills to pick from. Below are the two skills you may choose.

***Please choose ONE of the following skills to teach on your video***

- Forward Marching
- Backward Marching
- Drop Spin – Guard ONLY

### **Leadership Auditions Phase 3 – Interview (Sign up due May 1st)**

Leadership interviews will begin on May 11<sup>th</sup>. You MUST sign up for a leadership interview time by Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. This will be first come, first serve. All interview times are final, and they cannot be changed, however if a conflict arises between now and your interview time, please contact Mr. Myers. All interviews will be through Zoom Meeting. Below is the link to the meeting. We ask that you please be on time for interview. It is advised that you join the meeting early and wait in the online waiting room. The directors will let you in when we are ready.

**Interview Sign Up (Due May 1st) - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4FA5AF2DA4F58-nshs1>**

**Zoom Meeting Link for Interviews - <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79594923257>**

**At the end of this packet is a Color Guard Captain Application. This for GUARD ONLY**

## **Rules of the Teaching Video**

1. The video **MUST** be 5 to 8 minutes long. You cannot exceed 8 minutes. We need to know if you can teach a skill in 5 to 8 minutes.
2. We must see your entire body. Teaching is about demonstrating and if you are demonstrating how to do a forward step, then we need to see your feet. Make sure your camera is far enough back so we can see you.
3. If you are teaching another person, we must see that entire person as well. If you are demonstrating a skill to someone, we need to see if they are understanding and accomplishing what you are asking them to do.
4. You need to speak up in the recording - The band staff needs to hear you. Make sure you are loud enough so we can hear your voice
5. Please assume that the person you are teaching (even if you are pretending) knows all the skills they would need to know **BEFORE** the forward and backward march. This includes, attention, how to hold the instrument, commands, hand and feet placement, etc...

## **Helpful Hints**

1. **PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE - DO NOT** do this video without practicing your teaching skills. In 20 years of teaching marching band I have **NEVER** seen a student be successful teaching by “winging it.” Teaching is not easy, and it takes practice
2. Make sure your recording is your very best - Watch your recording and make sure you like what you send. This needs to be your very best work. So, if you need to do it multiple times, then do it.
3. Teaching is all about breaking things down - When you teach something new, you need to think about how you would go about it step by step. Think about what you would do first when teaching a forward march.
4. **WRITE OUT A LESSON PLAN** - We **HIGHLY** recommend you do this. **ALL** teachers instruct their students with a plan. Write down the exact steps you are going to take, how you are going to say them, and then **PRACTICE!**
5. The next few pages are from our marching fundamentals handbook. This should help you think about how you would teach forward or backward marching.

# Forward March

**Purpose:** All motion no matter the exercise begins with the center of body. Pushing off with the platform of the right foot will create the necessary momentum for each exercise. The motion of the legs should be executed from the hip, much like the way a pendulum moves. The feet should always move in a straight line from where they begin. Do not allow one foot to cross the “line” of another. This can create safety situations at extended step sizes and accelerated tempos.

## Description:

The motion uses a straight leg with unlocked knees. Before any movement begins, the weight is balanced on the platforms of the feet! The highest priority:

- **FEET IN TIME!!**
- **FOCUS ON THE PLACEMENT OF THE FOOT AND THE KNEE WILL TAKE CARE OF ITSELF**
- **HEAL LOW - TOES UP - KNEES STRAIGHT - LEAD WITH THE HEAL**

**DO NOT focus on size of step when learning forward marching for the first time. Technique is more important than step size at this point.**

*The Step Off* – “Push, and” – (te of 8 to count 1)

- The muscles of the right leg should activate and prepare for motion on eight.
- The “push” happens from the right foot. **Push the platform on the right foot into the ground**
- Left leg swings from the hip as the left heel pushes forward
- **Heal is as low** to the ground as possible
- **Left toes curl up** inside the shoe (this ensures a straight leg going forward)
- Both legs are straight and the **left foot is flexed at 90 degrees**
- The motion happens on the “and or te” count

*1<sup>st</sup> Downbeat* – “One” – (count 1)

- Back edge of the left heel **touches on the beat.**
- The left foot is flexed upward as high as possible - should feel pull in the calf muscle, and it is pointed in the direction of travel.

- The right foot is on centered on the platform
- Both legs are straight and the **body weight is evenly centered** 50/50 between the feet -creating an A frame in the legs.

*The Cross-through – “Pas”* (to “and” of 1)

- The front foot slowly **rolls through its center** as the back foot peels off the ground and provides momentum.
- The **back knee bends** when the feet pass each other.
- The ankles **cross on the “te”** count of beat 1 and the right foot is 1/2” off with the heel down and toe up. The feet are now “in track” with each other.
- This **bend happens naturally** if the legs are straight but knees are relaxed.

*2<sup>nd</sup> Downbeat* – (to count 2)

- Right leg continues its motion as the ball of left leg provides momentum.
- Like 1<sup>st</sup> downbeat, the **right heel hits on the beat**, both legs are straight, and the weight is centered.

## HEAL LOW TOES UP KNEES STRAIGHT LEAD WITH THE HEAL

*The Halt “Place, close”* – (counts 8 and 1)

- On count 8, the right foot goes to “check” straight. The **right toe touches on beat 8** and rolls down to the heel.
- The left foot lands flat on beat one **parallel and next to the right foot**.
- The **left leg does not bend** while bringing in the left foot for the close.

**Overall-**

- **The steps don’t change overall posture**
- The motion is smooth and controlled.
- The feet stay parallel and in-line like skis.
- The upper body remains in the attention position at all times.
- The eyes are up.

- The body is lifted up and the torso is firm.

## Backward March

**Purpose:** Our backward technique carries the same basic concept as the forward technique. All motion, no matter the exercise begins with the center of body. Pushing off with the platform of the right foot will create the necessary momentum for each exercise. The motion of the legs should be executed from the hip, much like the way a pendulum moves. The feet should always move in a straight line from where they begin. Do not allow one foot to cross the “line” of another. This can create safety situations at extended step sizes and accelerated tempos.

### Description:

Before any movement begins, the weight is balanced on the platforms of the feet!

*The Step Off* – “Push and” - (te of 8 to count 1)

- The muscles of the right leg should activate and prepare for motion on eight.
- The “push” happens from the right foot. **Push the platform on the right foot into the ground**
- Left leg swings from the hip as the left heel pushes BACKWARD
- **Heal is as low** to the ground as possible
- **You lead with the left heal.**

*1<sup>st</sup> Downbeat* – “1” - (Count 1)

- The left platform touches on the downbeat.
- Right heal comes off the ground. (slightly)
- Right leg is pointed forward like a tondu
- Both heals are low to the ground but DOES NOT TOUCH THE GROUND
- The ball, big toe, and pinky toe should each feel the same amount of weight.
- Both legs are straight and weight is centered 50/50 – A frame.

*The Cross-Through* – “Cross” (to “te” of 1)

- The left foot pushes into the ground as the right platform continues momentum.
- The right leg swings from the hip from a tondu position.
- The legs are straight
- The heals stay low to the ground in the “platform position”
- The ankles cross on the “te” of 1.

*2<sup>nd</sup> Downbeat* - (to count 2)

- The right leg continues to swing through as you lead with the right heel
- The right platform lands on the downbeat of count 2 – heel stays low
- The body is aligned just as the “1<sup>st</sup> Downbeat” and weight is centered.

**Problem Solving** - Many of the same problems will occur during the backward as in the forward. We all must continue to focus on them in order to appear uniform while moving as well as to be able play at the highest possible performance standard.

1. **Too High or Uneven Releve** - A concern specifically associated with the backward march is often students will releve too high so that little to no body control exists. The students should only releve to their platforms and no higher. Also, many times the back heel will be higher off the ground than the front. Both heels should be equidistant off the ground.
2. **Improper upper body carriage** – It must appear as if you are standing still
3. **Leaning into and out of the step off** – This is most often caused by not leading the motion from the center of the body or by improper weight displacement on the foot.
4. **Knee bend on step 1** - Focus should be placed on moving from the hip.
5. **Upper body not centered over the lower body on the move** – Again caused by not leading the initial motion from the center of the body.
6. **Extreme upper body motion while on the move** – Usually a culprit of not separating at the hips or by lifting the foot too high off the ground and thereby slamming the platform on the ground versus placing it. The platform should graze across the surface of the ground.
7. **Timing Tendencies** – count two will probably be slow while count eight to one will be fast

# Newman Smith Band Leadership Guidelines and Contract

## 2020-2021 School Year

All students that are selected for a leadership position for the Newman Smith High School Band Program will be expected to do the following as part of their leadership responsibilities.

- 1) **PERFORM A SOLO AND/OR ENSEMBLE** at the region level UIL Solo and Ensemble contest
- 2) **AUDITION** for the All-Region Band
- 3) **ATTEND ALL** scheduled practices, performances, and section rehearsals.
- 4) **BE ACADEMICALLY ELIGIBLE** at the moment of selection and remain eligible for every grading period during the entire school year.
- 5) **PROVIDE LEADERSHIP** through example, promote the highest expectations for other band members, and show zero tolerance for negative behavior
- 6) **SUPPORT** all Newman Smith High School and NSHS Band policies as described in the NSHS Band Handbook.
- 7) **PARTICIPATE** in all winter guard rehearsals and performances (Guard only)
- 8) **COMPLETE** your required 8 concession stand shifts per year

My signature indicates that I have reviewed the leadership guidelines with my child, and we understand the policies which are outlined and stated.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Parent Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# Newman Smith HS Color Guard Captain Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ GPA \_\_\_\_\_

Position Desired: (Circle one)                      Captain                      Co-Captain

Would you be willing to accept another position if offered? (Circle one)  
Yes              No

Thank you for you interest as a leader for the Newman Smith High School Color Guard. Please answer all questions open and honestly using only blue or black ink. Use additional paper as needed to complete all question. There are no right or wrong answers. This application will be used to aid and assist the interview process. Not all applicants will continue to the interview process, however every application will be considered.

1.) Why do you want to be Captain of the Newman Smith High School Color Guard?

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2.) If you could change one thing from the past year what would it be? Why?

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3.) What was your favorite part of this past year? Why?

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4.) What qualities do you have that set you aside from the others?

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5.) Your best friend on the team is disrespectful towards the coaches, the team, and you; How do you handle him or her?

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6.) A few team members are continually late to rehearsal, what would you say is the best solution? How could you help implement this plan?

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7.) As captain, it's your job to make sure the team is prepared and always giving 100%, What can you do to make sure your team is keeping up this standard of excellence?

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8.) Eligibility is the key to participation, what would you do if you learned that a team member was failing and class and was about to become ineligible?

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9.) We all have bad days, how would you help a team mate that is having a bad rehearsal?

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10.) What would be your weakest characteristic and how might that hinder your performance as a leader?

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11.) As captain it is vital to keep the team unified. What are some things you would do to keep the team unified?

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12.) It is very important that a leader can take initiative. Give an example of a time that you had to take initiative and lead by example.

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13.) As captain your patience will be tested. Give an example of a time when your patience and temper was tested. How did you handle the situation and what was the outcome?

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14.) What is your favorite part of color guard? Why?

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(Applicant Signature)

(Date)

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(Parent / Guardian Signature)

(Date)