

# Quaker Valley High School Marching Band

## Section Leader (Captain) Responsibilities

### **Description**

Section Leader (Captain) positions within the Marching Band are of extreme importance. Captains are expected to be experts in matters of music and marching that are specific to their instrument or instrument family (or in the case of the Guard Captain, flags, rifles, batons, silks, dance, etc.). Captains are held to the very highest standards of musical and behavioral excellence.

The primary responsibilities of Captains in this organization are as follows:

- To consistently demonstrate an example of the utmost excellence in the areas of personal responsibility, discipline, respect, integrity, work ethic, positive attitude, behavior and musicianship.
- To maintain an open line of communication with the Band Director and Drum Major to discuss goals (and how to achieve them) and problems (and how to fix them).
- To guide and direct the members of his/her designated section to ensure that expectations of responsibility, discipline, respect, integrity, work ethic, positive attitude, behavior and musicianship remain consistent throughout the Marching Band.
- To encourage and promote personal responsibility, discipline, respect, integrity, work ethic, positive attitude, behavior and musicianship among the band/guard membership.

These responsibilities are not exclusive to Marching Band season, but year-round responsibilities. Captains are expected to lead both out on the marching field and in the classroom.

The Captain positions available in this organization are flexible. Assistant captain positions may also be granted. The number and configuration of captain positions is not set from year to year and is solely at the discretion of Mr. Neville and the Band Staff.

### **Qualifications**

- Any current freshman, sophomore or junior Marching Band student who is in good academic and behavioral standing at Quaker Valley High School, and whose attendance record in the Marching Band is acceptable, is eligible to audition and interview for a Captain position.
- The tenure for a Captain position will be one school year in length. Captains will not automatically retain their captain position from year to year—they must audition and interview for the position every year. An unsatisfactory tenure (as determined by the Band Director and Band Staff) as a Captain will lead to the possibility of that individual not being allowed to audition/interview as a candidate any leadership position in the future. Unsatisfactory behavior and/or performance on the part of a Captain at any time may result in dismissal after a performance review interview with

the Band Director and/or Band Staff. If a Captain is dismissed, the Band Director will choose a suitable replacement, either through audition/interview or appointment.

• At an audition time to be determined by the Band Director, candidates for Captain need to be able to demonstrate the following skills:

- Demonstrate ability to set drill/read coordinate cards
- Demonstrate ability to perform basic commands including, but not limited to:
  - At the ready
  - Coming to attention
  - Coming to parade rest
  - Horns Up
  - Horns Down
  - Mark Time
  - Forward March
  - Back March
  - Halt
  - Left Glide
  - Right Glide
  - Dress Left
  - Dress Right
  - Dress Front
  - About Face
  
- Answer questions about the description, qualifications and duties of a Captain in this organization.
- Answer questions about the rules, regulations and guidelines of this organization relative to the Band Handbook.
- Answer opinion questions about the past, present and future of the band program; former, current and future student leadership; and philosophy of leadership.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the band's history.

### **Specific Duties**

Captains are expected to be at every Marching Band commitment including all rehearsals, performances and parades. Reasonable exceptions will always apply, but more than three absences for any reason will warrant a performance review interview with the Band Director. Student leaders who do not model the importance of attendance commitments to the membership will be ineffective in encouraging their fellow band/guard members to meet their own attendance commitments.

Captains are expected to meet with the Band Director and Drum Major(s) on a weekly basis to discuss goals and potential problems, and to ensure consistency from the Band Director, to the Drum Major(s), to the student leadership and finally to the band/guard members.

Captains are expected to be early to every commitment. In order to promote punctuality among the band members, Captains are never permitted to be late. Similarly, Captains are always expected to be fully prepared for any rehearsal or performance.

Captains are expected to be proactive in addressing issues they know how to address with their designated sections. Obvious examples include posture/instrument carriage, in-step, marching technique, step-offs, quality of command response, poor rehearsal behavior, poor behavior in the stands, etc. Leadership as a Captain means not having to wait for someone else to tell you to fix an obvious problem.

Captains are to lead by example. They are to conduct themselves in the manner that they expect all band members will aspire to emulate.

Captains are expected to know, abide by and communicate to their fellow band/guard members, all of the rules, regulations and guidelines of the Marching Band.

#### AT REHEARSAL

- Captains are to help the Drum Major lead rehearsals and practice sessions. Goals for each rehearsal or practice session are set with the Band Director and Drum Major.
- Captains are to convey the goals of the rehearsal and/or practice session to the other band/guard members with the help of the Band Director and Drum Major.
- Captains should be prepared to run sectionals for either music or marching and need to have teaching strategies to address common problems.
- Captains need to help set and correct drill when practicing field formations.

#### AT GAMES, FESTIVALS AND PARADES

The Captains are in charge of:

- Helping to enforce proper conduct in the stands
- Helping to ensure band members are punctual and efficient in their duties
- Helping to communicate directions to the band/guard
- Helping to organize band/guard members