

William Tennent High School Marching Band 2018

Visual Guidelines

Marching Techniques:

- Straight leg style: We will keep our legs straight during both forward and backward marching. The keys to this technique are as follows:
 - Posture: Keep the upper body lifted, separating the hips & rib-cage.
 - Push: Initiate each step by pushing with the “back” foot, not by leaning or lifting the knee.
 - Toes/Ball of Foot:
 - In forward marching, lift the toes of the foot that is moving to avoid resistance from the ground.
 - In backward marching, land on the ball of the foot or “platform” staying off your heels so the foot can act as a shock absorber
 - Weight: Body weight will always be centered between the feet when apart.
- Roll step:
 - Forward marching will always be a roll step where the weight shifts forward gradually as the foot “rolls” forward.
 - We will not roll backwards unless tempos drop below 84 beats per minute.

Reading Drill:

- Definitions:
 - Left side: Performer’s left side of the 50
 - Right side: Performer’s right side of the 50
 - Inside: Toward the 50
 - Outside: Away from the 50
 - Front: Audience side (where pit is)
 - Back: The other side (duh)
- How to find your dot:
 - Start by finding the yard line mentioned in your coordinate
 - Find the correct number of steps in front of or behind the correct hash or sideline (along the yard line mentioned above)
 - Take the correct number of steps to the left or right of the yard line while facing the front sideline
 - All steps listed in a “dot” or drill coordinate are “8 to 5” steps meaning the step size needed to go 5 yards in exactly 8 steps. This is a 22.5” step which is slightly smaller than the average person’s normal step size.
 - When a dot involves a fraction, use the following tricks:
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ step = 1 heel-toe step
 - $\frac{1}{4}$ step = front instep even with ball of back foot
 - $\frac{3}{4}$ step = forward full step then back $\frac{1}{4}$ step

Dot Sheets:

- All marching members must have “dot sheets” on the field with them during rehearsals.
- These should be checked anytime field is given to insure that forms are correct. By doing this, you will eventually memorize your dots.

Rehearsal Etiquette:

- “Stand-by” will be given. Assume Stand-by position and listen to the assignment.
- If members need to move to start the assignment, “Reset” will be given. Move to the starting point quickly and prepare to get “Set.”
- Once in the necessary position, “Set” will be called signalling the rep is about to begin.
- The rep will begin with an “8 & go” from the metronome or the Drum Major.
- After each rep, staff or Drum Major will say:
 - “Check”: Use only your eyes to check your position and figure out if you need to move.
 - “Fix”: Move only your feet to the correct position on the field. Continue to hold equipment the same way.
 - “Stand-by”: Assume stand-by position and direct attention to “the box”
 - “Field”: Field staff and/or leaders will provide feedback. Relax but keep your feet in place. CHECK YOUR DOT SHEET!! Colorguard should be practicing routine for the current or upcoming set.
 - Stand-by will be given again and repeat...
- Plus One & Minus One:
 - All Reps will begin in “Minus-One” with your right foot on your starting dot and your left foot one step back toward the previous set (if previous set was a hold, feet start together).
 - While learning drill, phrases will end in Minus-one.
 - When Marching AND Playing, phrases will end in Plus-one (take an additional step with your left foot toward the next set AND play and sustain the next downbeat).

Marching Methods:

- Straight line path: unless told otherwise, take a straight line path from point A to point B
- Even step size: unless told otherwise, every step in a phrase should be the same size.
- Direction changes: Every visual phrase should end with a “Tendu” or “stab step” pointing toward the front sideline. (exception: phrases ending in a halt where you are outside the 35 yard line, in which case point your toes toward the press box)
- Instrument/Body facing: Instruments (and shoulders) should point straight ahead when inside the 35's. When outside, point toward the “Press Box” unless told otherwise.
- Horns up & Down:
 - To start a song, instruments will come up on 5 of the count off assuming you play on the downbeat.
 - Instruments will come down at the end 2 beats after the release (count as “release-and-down”)

- In the case of rests covering more than 16 counts, instruments will come down on “3” where the release beat is “1” (add a beat for right foot releases). Instruments will come up on beat 1 of the measure before your entrance.
- Ballad horn moves will span “3” counts (e.g. at the beginning of the ballad, initiate horn movement on 5 of count off and lock in place on 7)
- Horn Carriage: Instruments (and chins) should be 10 degrees above horizontal. In the case of a horn “pop” or “raise” instruments should point to “Press Box” height.

Dressing Forms:

- During band camp and when learning drill, the dot is King! DO NOT adjust to forms.
- When cleaning drill with music during the season, when “Check & Adjust” are given, guide to the form. At “Field,” check your dots and adjust to the dot.
- In straight line forms, the two members closest to the front set the angle.
- In a form (such as a block) with multiple dress-points (e.g. vertical, horizontal and diagonal lines) the one most visible to the audience and judges (usually vertical lines) takes priority.