**Sectional Fundamentals**

**Basic section leader responsibilities**

- **The quality and success of this band will largely depend on how effective sectionals are run.**

- You must personally inform every member of your section of the time, date, and place of sectional. Do not assume they will be informed.

- You cannot be afraid to tell a friend that they need to improve or work harder. This is the part of leadership that many section leaders ignore because it makes them uncomfortable. You must put the needs of the ensemble above personal relationships.

- It is the section leader’s responsibility to work individually with members who are behind or struggling. This is what a leader does. This means coming early or staying after sectionals to work with these people.

- You must lead by example in everything you do. You must have the show memorized and be able to play it exactly as we want to perform it. When learning drill RUN back to set. Do not talk during rehearsals. Raise your level of expectation from yourself and your section will follow. Take pride in your section and its members.

- You MUST be prepared to run a sectional. If you waste your sections time because you are not prepared they will be less willing to attend future sectionals. You should have specific objectives of what you want to accomplish (measures??-?? in the second mvt. or sets 7-9). After you have identified what you want to fix then decide how you are going to fix it. You should call your section coach before every sectional to help with this. Running through the show or rough sections will not fix anything it will only reinforce mistakes. **Plan your work and work your plan.**

**Rehearsal techniques**

- Section coaches do not need to be at every sectional. As section leader you should inform the coach of the sectional, ask what material needs to be covered and how to approach it. Do not make musical decisions without asking your section coach or Mr. Hendricks (lets slur that passage instead of what’s written).

- Be prepared with a metronome and tuner at every sectional.

- **SECTIONALS SHOULD BE ON THE FIELD, MARCHING THE DRILL.*** We are a marching band, not a sitting band. If the field is not available at least get them up and marking time, working horn angles.

- Every sectional should include a long tone/lip slur warm-up, articulation etude, technical etude, and an intonation etude. **Do not skip this process.** These basic skills are the foundation of everything we do. Your section will improve more and faster with this routine. If you are getting bored with your warm-ups your section coach can provide you with more.

- If your section is struggling with a section/passage slow it down to a manageable tempo. Run the section several times at the slower tempo and then gradually work towards performance tempo. If you continue to force a tempo that the section cannot handle you will only reinforce the mistakes and create a mental block with your section members that they can’t execute that passage.

- Get past notes and rhythms. If your only goal is to have correct notes and rhythms that is what your section will give you. Notes and rhythms are the bare minimum a member can have to march with the band. Go for the details of intonation, balance, dynamics, accents, phrasing, and articulation. Do not accept anything less than what is correct. Your section will adopt your attitude towards what is acceptable.

- At the end of every sectional give praise for improvement especially from members who have been struggling. You then need to identify what the section needs to work on individually before the next sectional.
Sectional Form

Date__________

Section_______________

Members absent_________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Warm-ups:

Objective 1 (be specific):

Was objective 1 accomplished?___

Objective 2:

Was objective 2 accomplished?___

As a section leader rate the effectiveness of this sectional (1-10).___

Ask your section to rate the effectiveness of this sectional.___

*Turn this form into your section coach or Mr. Hendricks at the conclusion of the sectional.*