

OCEAN LAKES INDOOR PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

2017-2018

Handbook



Ensemble Sponsor

Mr. Michael Parker

Ocean Lakes High School Director of Bands

Director and Battery Caption Head

Mr. Mike Jones

Coordinator and Front Ensemble Instructor

Mr. Corey Langston

Other Instructional Staff Include

Kaia Ro, Visual Instructor

Nick Robusto, Visual Instructor

Zac Kanter, Battery Instructor

Jacob Ward, Battery Instructor

Patrick Dermody, Battery Instructor

Table of Contents

I. Staff Information

- a. Contact Information
- b. Instructor Bios

II. General Philosophy

- a. Mission Statement
- b. Objectives

III. Activity Descriptions

- a. Auditions
- b. Rehearsals
- c. Performances
- d. Competitions

IV. Rules and Regulations

- a. Fees
- b. Commitment
- c. Attendance
- d. Important Dates and Deadlines

I. Staff Information

Mike Jones (Director/Instructor)

drumminmike@gmail.com

757-651-4367

Corey Langston (Coordinator/Instructor)

corey.langston@vbschools.com

757-228-6422

Zac Kanter (Battery Instructor)

zackanter@gmail.com

757-636-8403

Staff Biographies

Mike Jones graduated from Ocean Lakes High School in 2003 and continued his education at the University of Virginia in the field of Mechanical Engineering. While attending UVA, Mike served as section leader of the UVA drumline for the first three years of the marching band's existence. After returning to Virginia Beach, Mike joined the Ocean Lakes Marching Band staff and has been the battery arranger and instructor since 2007.

Corey Langston is a native of Virginia Beach. He graduated from First Colonial High School, where he helped create the indoor drumline Dominion Storm. Mr. Langston studied Music Education at Hampton University marching center snare with the marching band. He has served as conductor for the Hampton University Symphonic Winds. Mr. Langston has been instructing percussion at Ocean Lakes since 2014. Mr. Langston is a proud member of the Pi Beta chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

Kaia Ro is a junior at Old Dominion University studying Criminal Justice and Sociology. She is currently in her 14th season of color guard. Her performance experience includes nine seasons of color guard at a high school level (4 outdoor, and 5 indoor); two seasons of being a dancer for indoor drumline at a high school level; one year of college marching band; three seasons of Open Class Indoor color guard (2 with Stonewall Independent, 1 with Mason Open); and one summer with Carolina Crown. Her teaching experience lies with 2 years of High School marching band and indoor color guard, and 1 year of indoor drumline visual/ design staff.

Nicholas "Robo" Robusto is an OLHS alumni, of the class of 2012. After marching in high school, he went on to march DCI for 4 years with The Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps. He is currently the visual caption supervisor for the OLMB, and has been teaching high school marching band for 5 years. Robo is, also, currently enrolled as a Mechanical Engineering student at Old Dominion University.

Jacob Ward graduated from Ocean Lakes High School in 2017. Jacob continued with music after high school by marching a summer with the Raiders Open Class Drum Corps which afforded him the opportunity to perform in Lucas Oil Stadium for Finals. He will have his first indoor experience this winter receiving a contract from the Liberty University Indoor Drumline. He marched 4 years with the Ocean Lakes HS marching band playing bass for two years, and then switching to snare. He returned to Ocean Lakes High School after graduating to serve as a field tech for the marching band.

Zac Kanter graduated from Cox High School in 2016. He marched snare drum all 4 years of his high school marching career and served as section leader for two of those years. He returned to Cox HS to serve as the battery instructor after graduating and has now taught 2 successful seasons with the award winning program. After graduating high school, Zac went on to further his marching education with the Liberty University Indoor Drumline. Mr. Kanter is a WGI open class finalist, and he will be returning to the group to play snare drum for another season this winter.

Patrick Dermody is an avid musician in the area who graduated from Tallwood High School in 2014. Patrick just finished his third year as the battery instructor at Tallwood and first year on staff at Ocean Lakes. Patrick was integral to the success of the Ocean Lakes Indoor Percussion Ensemble for its inaugural 2016-2017 season. Outside of the marching arts, Patrick has been playing drum set professionally for 5 years, with experience ranging from small jazz combo gigs to playing in the premiere pit orchestras for the area's local musicals.

II. General Philosophy

Mission Statement

The Ocean Lakes Indoor Percussion Ensemble is a scholastic competitive performing ensemble sponsored by the Ocean Lakes Band Program. It is our mission to engage and grow young musicians into well trained performers in the artistry of indoor percussion.

Objectives

1. Understand the musical, technical, and visual roles and responsibilities that define a successful indoor percussion ensemble
2. Introduce, develop, and maintain a proficient level of percussion and performance skills for each member of the ensemble
3. Provide enjoyable and memorable experiences for participating members

III. Activity Description

Indoor Percussion is a competitive musical activity that utilizes traditional marching band percussion instruments and marries elements of music performance, marching, and theater in an indoor environment. The ensemble is broken into subgroups: Battery and Front Ensemble.

The **Battery** is comprised of four conventional marching instruments that are characteristic to marching band: Snare Drum, Tenor Drums, Bass Drum, and Cymbals. Marching with the battery is an athletic activity. During the audition process, aspiring battery members will be evaluated on their musical preparedness *and* physical ability. Students will be expected to keep time with their feet when they audition. Indoor Drum Line puts enhanced visual responsibilities on the battery when compared to outdoor marching band. The primary responsibility of the battery is to create time, provide rhythmic interest, and create expressive visuals.

The **Front Ensemble** is comprised of a large range of percussion instruments: marimbas, vibraphones, chimes, glockenspiels, synthesizers, auxiliary stations, etc. Current ensembles have extended instrumentation to include electric guitar, electric bass, and drum set as well. The front ensemble provides the melodic content of the performance and aids in the emotional expression of the music. Front Ensemble members are versatile percussionists, often asked to play more than one instrument.

Although the skill sets of the battery and front ensemble are slightly different, both will provide rewarding challenges and growth opportunities to participating members. The Battery and Front Ensemble are both essential to the Indoor Percussion. There will be equal opportunities to audition for both ensembles.

Indoor Season

The indoor season starts in mid-November and ends in early April.

Auditions

Unfortunately, there are a limited number of positions in the Ocean Lakes Indoor Percussion Ensemble due to the availability of percussion equipment. As such, an audition process will be used to determine membership for the season.

Auditions will be held over two dates, each with four hour sessions. Day One will introduce the activity and the individual expectations, audition materials, visual fundamentals, and playing

fundamentals that will be used as the criteria for evaluation. Day Two will occur one week later to allow aspiring members time to process and incorporate what they learn on Day One. It is highly encouraged that aspiring members (especially non-percussionists) audition on more than one instrument (e.g. one battery instrument and one front ensemble instrument).

Battery Auditions will evaluate the aspiring members' ability to play the defined sections of the warmups with the correct rhythmic interpretation and control (stick heights/dynamics), as well as their ability to move wearing the drum. Aspiring members are not required to memorize the warmups for the audition, but are encouraged to do so to support playability. Tenors will play all parts on drums one and two (i.e. no rounds). Reading and counting of bass splits will be explained on Day One, with the expectation that aspiring members are able to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the concept on Day Two through accurate rhythmic execution of the parts. The battery instructors may also decide to implement a short sight-reading segment for all battery auditions. Aspiring members should be prepared to play all excerpts to a metronome while keeping time with their feet (marking time). ****Cymbal auditions will be conducted in conjunction with bass auditions****

Front Ensemble Auditions will evaluate the aspiring members' ability to quickly grasp concepts, demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental playing techniques, and adapt to their surroundings. The nature of the front ensemble's many instruments makes a traditional audition unpractical. Aspiring members are not required to memorize the warmups for the audition, but are encouraged to be familiar with the rhythms and notes to support playability.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals will be kept to the minimum required to develop the fundamentals/skills, learn the show, maintain proficiency in show execution, and adjust/modify the show as needed to improve effectiveness. All rehearsals will take place at Ocean Lakes High School.

Early season rehearsals will focus on percussion basics and warmups - for the battery, this includes visual basics. As the season continues, students will be required to memorize all exercises and show music.

The rehearsal schedule will be maintained in a shared Google Calendar made available via the Ocean Lakes Band website (oceanlakesbands.com) with changes/updates also communicated via email. The ensemble will target four six-hour early season rehearsals (held on Saturdays) to learn the show, with one three-hour rehearsal per week throughout the season (held primarily on Wednesdays) to maintain proficiency. The ensemble will also rehearse the Friday before competitions.

As the season progresses, the staff will re-evaluate the need for the scheduled Friday and Saturday rehearsals and cancel them as warranted.

Competitions

Competitions are mandatory for every student. The number of scheduled competitions will be determined by logistics and budget. The ensemble is projected to attend 4 competitions during the spring semester. Additional competitions may be added from season to season.

IV. Rules and Regulations

Fees

The Ocean Lakes Indoor Percussion Ensemble relies on funding from the band parents' association *and* member dues. Dues for the 2017-18 season are \$220 per student (Payment plans are available. Please speak with Mr. Langston). Dues collectively cover the following expenses:

- Music
- Drill
- Instruction
- Rehearsal space
- Equipment and Props
- Uniforms
- Atlantic Indoor Association Membership and Competition Registration
- Competition Travel

Members will also have to pay for their shoes. Indoor Percussion requires a different set of marching shoes than regular marching band. Members should expect to spend around \$30 for their shoes. ****Members from the previous season can reuse their existing shoes****

Commitment

Membership in a musical organization requires discipline. Rules are established so that the group may function efficiently not only for musical development, but to also create a sense of family and develop a support group. All members of the ensemble accept the rules of the organization upon joining the program and commit to fulfilling their individual responsibilities within the ensemble.

Members and parents will sign a commitment form after the auditions take place. Once the commitment form is signed, members and parents are bound to participate in all required events and pay fees by the provided deadline. ****Payment plans are available****

Attendance

Attendance is required at every rehearsal, performance, and competition. The success of this group depends on the commitment of each individual. Indoor Percussion is not a graded ensemble. However, a strict attendance policy will be followed:

1. First (unexcused) Absence: staff intervention with student
2. Second Absence: email or call to parents
3. Third Absence: expulsion from the ensemble

The indoor percussion program cannot succeed without participation! Any planned absences must be excused by Mr. Jones or Mr. Langston.

Important Dates and Deadlines

11/14/17: Audition Day 1

11/21/17: Audition Day 2

11/26/17: Audition Results Cascaded/Membership Commitment Forms Extended

12/02/17: Commitment Forms Due

12/10/17: Membership Fees/Payment Plan Due

01/27/18: Competition at Grassfield HS (Chesapeake, VA)

02/17/18: Competition at Deep Run HS (Glenn Allen, VA)

03/10/18: Competition at Woodgrove HS (Purcellville, VA) or Rolesville HS (Raleigh, NC)

04/14/18: AIA Championships Competition at South County HS (Lorton, VA)

****This is NOT a comprehensive schedule. Please refer to the shared Google Calendar****