Education Support

American Dance

Working With Your Band Director

By Debbie Byrd

Meet Your Band Director and discuss the Following Information:

1. Does your band director select the music of your routines? If not, it will be up to the dance team director to get available music options from publishing companies or music selections as well as routine selections from summer dance camps.
2. How much time does the band director allot for the drill team's half time performance? Possibly, your administration makes this decision.
3. How much time and when does the drill team practice with the band?
4. Does the drill team march with the band? If not, does the dance team perform before or after the band half time? If the dance team does march as a unit with the band, will the dance team be attending contests with the band?
5. At which area of the football field will the dance team enter for their routine performance? What music does your team use for entering the field? Frequently there are problems if the dance team enters from the same side where the band is trying to exit or vice versa. What music does your team use for exiting the field? Typically the school fight song.
6. Does the dance team travel with the band? In most cases the dance team must make their own travel arrangements and the dance team does not travel to the contest with their band. Bands and dance/drill teams have separate competitions.
7. Does your band play music at pep rallies for the dance team to perform, or will it be necessary for the dance team director to have a quality recording?
8. What type of music works best for the band to play? Also, should certain arrangements be avoided?

Other Requirements:

1. Decide on the music you will be using for football season as soon as your camp company makes it available so you can order the band arrangements. Make sure

you request the tempo (BPM's) for each piece of music selected. Your band director will appreciate your promptness.

2. Type out a football schedule for your band director showing when the different dances will be performed. Also, make any notations by the music title if the tempo needs to be adjusted.
3. A music recording should accompany the schedule in case the band director needs to refer to it to remember the proper repeats.
4. Have your band director keep the dance team's music selection in their permanent files. The routine and sheet music could be used again in later years.