

# 2012 Fairfield Drumline

## Parent Information Packet

**What is Drumline?** – The drumline consists of 2 main parts: The Front Ensemble (aka Pit), which is comprised of keyboard and auxiliary percussion instruments and The Battery, which is comprised of drums and cymbals. BOTH sections play a crucial role in our ability to field a competitive ensemble.

**Drumline Website** – [www.fhsdrumline.com](http://www.fhsdrumline.com)

This is your primary source for information regarding rehearsal schedules/changes and also for most materials our kids need to be working on for rehearsals. Some areas of the website are password protected to keep outsiders from accessing our music and training materials. The username/password to access these areas is **percussion / rocks**

### On-going Communications

To keep the paper shuffle to a minimum, we will post all reminders about fees, fundraisers and meetings (etc) to the drumline website homepage. Be sure and check [www.fhsdrumline.com](http://www.fhsdrumline.com) at least weekly for updates!!

**We need parent volunteers to act as Fundraising Coordinators for each of our fund-raising activities.**

Please contact David Wray ([dwray@dwray.com](mailto:dwray@dwray.com)) or Amanda Schuster ([aschuster64@gmail.com](mailto:aschuster64@gmail.com)) if you can help out.

### 2012 Winter Rehearsal Schedule

We will begin training for next season on **Wednesdays**, starting **January 4<sup>th</sup>**. We will meet in the **FHS Band Room from 6pm-8:30pm** and continue this schedule every Wednesday unless otherwise advised. *Note that if school is let-out early or cancelled due to bad weather on a practice day, rehearsal is automatically cancelled.*

### Front Ensemble participation

ALL first year participants in the Drumline program, coming in as either a Freshman or Sophomore, **MUST** participate in the front ensemble for at least ONE complete season before being permitted to try out for a field percussion spot. *Exceptions will only be made at the discretion of the band staff for ensemble balancing purposes.*

# 2012 Budget Summary

## **Student Participation Fee for Drumline** (Note that other marching band fees will still apply!)

Note that several funding options were presented and voted upon by the parents in attendance of the information meeting. The following is the fee/fundraising plan that won the overwhelming majority of votes:

**\$200 per student- Due date is 2/8/2012**

**Fund-Raising Plan:** generate a total of **\$1800**

- 4 car washes (April, May, June, July)

*Student must participate in at least 2 car washes since this is not only a fund-raising opportunity, but a team-building opportunity!*

## **What we will do with this money:**

- Pay for weekly supplemental instructional staff from January thru October, including prep camp and band camp.
- purchase drum heads, maintenance parts, pit mallets, and accessory items as needed.
- purchase a new and much needed Vibraphone with a field frame (split the cost 50/50 with the band).
- contribute \$1000 to the equipment replacement fund to offset the future cost burden of replacing the battery percussion (ie drums), probably sometime around 2017.

## **FAQs**

**Q:** Are winter rehearsals mandatory?

**A:** No. However, drumline is a highly competitive activity and instruments are assigned based upon the student's demonstrated skill-level over time. While winter attendance is not mandatory, the skills taught during this time are crucial to their development. So to have the best possible chance to earn a position on the instruments they want to play, they should plan on attending throughout the winter schedule as often as possible.

**Q:** When is the actual 'audition' for drumline?

**A:** We do not actually have an audition date. Instead, we observe and evaluate the students over the course of the first 8 to 12 weeks and make the final instrument assignments based on these observations.

**Q:** Since winter rehearsals are not mandatory, can I avoid the participation fee by not attending the winter schedule and just showing up in July or August?

**A:** No. All participants will pay the same amount to be a member of the percussion ensemble regardless of when they begin attending practices.

**Q:** If my student quits participating for any reason or is dismissed from the program for disciplinary reasons after the participation fee is paid, is the fee refundable?

**A:** No. Each student will have about 4 weeks of participation before the fees are due. They should use that time to determine whether or not they are committed for the season.

**Q:** How do we determine who gets to play what instrument during the season?

**A:** During the winter training program, the staff will continually assess the skills of all players to determine the best fit for each student within the ensemble. While we do take the preferences of each student into account as much as possible in this decision making process, we also consider students' grade-level. Ultimately though, the decisions are made based-upon what is the best configuration for the entire group.

**Q:** Are all kids who attend the winter program guaranteed a spot in the drumline?

**A:** All kids who are currently in the regular band percussion program are guaranteed a spot in the ensemble. While we cannot guarantee a spot for non-percussionists a spot, we will make every effort to accommodate their participation. In the very unlikely event that we cannot find a spot for someone, all fees paid would be refunded for that student.

**Q:** Is there MORE to drumline than marching, music and drumming?

**A:** Certainly marching, music and drumming are the focal points of drumline, but participating in drumline and marching band is a tremendous social opportunity. In addition to being much like an extended family, the drumline kids organize and participate in a variety of other fun activities like a canoe trip, corn maze, and laser tag. We work hard and play hard! We want the members of the drumline to feel that they are part of an extended family, not only socializing with each other, but watching out for and nurturing our fellow members to be the best they can be – on the field, and off. We feel that this is perhaps the most crucial element in determining the overall success of the ensemble.