

# **DOWNINGTOWN INDOOR PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE**

## **PARENT/MEMBER HANDBOOK**

**2011-2011**

**Mr. Ed Otto, Director of Bands  
Mr. Joshua Bailey, Director of Percussion**

**445 Manor Avenue  
Downingtown, PA 19335  
(610) 269-4400 Ext. 7515**

**[www.facebook.com/groups/DTownIndoor](http://www.facebook.com/groups/DTownIndoor)**

## **Planning Ahead!!!**

The following dates are the scheduled testing dates for the State of Pennsylvania for 2011-2012. Please check with your administrators, guidance directors, and students to schedule testing on one of the dates that does not conflict with any of your performance dates. (Refer to Calendar of Major Events)

### **SAT**

November 5, 2011\*  
December 3, 2011\*  
January 28, 2012  
March 10, 2012  
May 5, 2012 \*  
June 2, 2012 \*

### **ACT**

October 22, 2011  
December 10, 2011\*  
February 11, 2012  
April 14, 2012  
June 9, 2012\*

### **PSSA**

Grade 12 Retest	October 24-November 4, 2011
Math and Reading	March 12-23, 2012
Math and Reading Make-Ups	March 26-30, 2012
Writing**	April 16-20, 2012
Science**	April 23-27, 2012
Writing and Science Make-Ups**	April 30-May 4, 2012

**\*Denotes the weeks highly recommended by the band department to take these exams**

**\*\*These PSSA Tests fall during WGI World Championships. Students will need to take the make-up exams April 30-May 4, 2012.**

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## Welcome to the 2012 Downingtown Indoor Percussion Ensemble!

To the Parents and Student,

We are very excited that your family has chosen to participate with one of the fastest growing competitive programs in the Downingtown Area School District. Your student's desire to become part of this percussion ensemble is a testament to the success of Downingtown High School as a competitive group in recent years. This success was not an accident but the result of a great deal of hard work and dedication exhibited by every individual who has come before you in this organization.

The following handbook has been put together to assist both the student and parent. The indoor percussion program provides many great opportunities for your student. We hope we can make this a great experience for you and your student. As with all great programs, there is much preparation and support required to make this a rewarding experience for all. We know each year many questions will arise. This handbook has been designed to help answer those. If you are unable to find the answer to your question, please contact any of the staff members listed below.

-Joshua Bailey, Director of Percussion

### Your Downingtown Indoor Percussion Staff

#### Band Director

Mr. Ed Otto                      eotto@dasd.org                      (610) 269-4400 Ext. 7515

#### Percussion Director/Arranger

Joshua Bailey                      joshuabailey446@gmail.com                      (484) 356-6568

#### Battery Instructional Staff

Aaron Griesser                      AG667750@wcupa.edu                      (614) 256-7296

Andrew Szypula                      andrewszypula@gmail.com                      (609) 214-1667

Sarah Kemmerer                      SK653047@wcupa.edu                      (610) 739-6759

Jon Ferrara(visual)                      jon\_ferrara@me.com                      (609) 335-3102

#### Front Ensemble Instructional Staff

Josh Lawrence                      jlawdrummer@yahoo.com                      (717) 471-7961

Trish Witt                      trishwitt@verizon.net                      (484) 753-2042

Cory Lyle                      cjlyle53@yahoo.com

Rich Klimowicz                      metaledge32@yahoo.com

### How Do Parents Find Out What is Going On?

Downingtown Music Parents Association meetings are held once a month, usually the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30PM at either East or West High School. All parents are invited and encouraged to attend. Check the MPA website, [www.dhsmpla.org](http://www.dhsmpla.org), for the official calendar. A wealth of information is given at each meeting concerning schedules, fundraisers, upcoming events, volunteer needs, band camp and much, much more. At the majority of the meetings, a percussion staff member will be available. The best way for you to be informed is to attend the booster meetings regularly.

# Our Mission Statement

*“Our goal is to grow good people and good musicians; through a reinforced positive attitude and consistent hard work by all active members.” (Established 2010)*

Understanding and buying in to our mission statement will be of the utmost importance to the success of Downingtown Indoor Percussion in the upcoming season.

Remember, actions ***always*** speak louder than words.

We *want* to transform our promise to be the best we can be into a reality. That will mean demonstrating a remarkable level of discipline as an ensemble and as individuals within an ensemble.

We will strive to be on the same page at all times.

Together, we will focus in rehearsal after rehearsal on living up to our mission statement.

Understand that how you conduct yourself on a consistent basis will color your individual experience and the experience of the entire ensemble. We want everyone to have the most positive and enjoyable experience possible; so please be sure that you are always working with the staff and your colleagues toward excelling on all levels.

Our competitive ranking will be a secondary concern. If we do what we set out to do for ourselves, to master ourselves, our ranking and the way audiences receive us will be impressive enough. The minds of judges can be a great mystery. Unlocking that mystery must take second place to our focus on the task at hand.

Being great at anything is a ton of fun.

The aspiration to be great is one thing; to be great is something else.

You must grasp the dimensions of the work ahead of you, the discipline and mindset that are needed to achieve authentic greatness as an individual and as part of an ensemble.

The challenge may be greater than you now imagine it to be.

Nonetheless, are you up for it?

# What's Expected of This Ensemble

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

**Attendance is mandatory at ALL performances! Any problems will be dealt with on a personal basis.** The Indoor Percussion Ensemble is a group activity and requires the cooperation and teamwork of everyone involved all the time. Members are expected to be at all rehearsals unless they have an excused absence which must be discussed with the staff in person and submitted in writing at least one week in advance. The ensemble has very limited rehearsal time, therefore there is a zero tolerance policy on unexcused absences. The *only* excused absences are for a serious illness or death in the immediate family. Doctor's notes must be presented if there is an absence in order for it to be excused. Members with jobs are expected to be at all rehearsals, inform your employer accordingly.

Examples of *unexcused* absences:

- College visits/auditions (plan these when you do not have indoor rehearsal)
- Tickets to a rock concert, sports game, etc.
- "Too much homework"
- Not feeling well (illegitimate illness)
- Extended family in town

Members are expected to make a commitment to the school, the ensemble, and the other members of the group. Be proactive about your schedule and let your staff know about it.

**If you do not adhere to this attendance policy, your position in the group may be evaluated or terminated.**

## Member/Staff Communication

The Downingtown Indoor Percussion Ensemble has a Facebook group, <[www.facebook.com/groups/DTownIndoor](http://www.facebook.com/groups/DTownIndoor)>. All members of the ensemble will be invited to join the group. Important announcements from the staff regarding rehearsals, contests, and performances will be posted on the Facebook site. Videos from rehearsals and performances will also be posted on the site for self-critique. Please do not post social related comments, links, or degrading criticisms on the site. It is purely for communication and observation. If you do not have a Facebook, let your staff know and we can have all posts forwarded to your e-mail. Communication is an invaluable tool when it comes to an organization such as the Downingtown Indoor Percussion Ensemble. All staff and members must always be on the same page.

# The A's

**ATTENDANCE** • If you attend rehearsals consistently, you will fulfill your potential for improvement, for reaching the goal of being the best that you can possibly be.

**ATTITUDE** • When your attitude is consistently positive and objective, and you are eager to learn despite the challenges that may arise, you can — and will — achieve the goals you set for yourself and that Downingtown Indoor Percussion sets for itself as an ensemble.

**AWARENESS** • Always be aware of yourself in your surroundings. Understand that you are an essential, yet very small, piece of a much larger puzzle. Know your role. Demonstrate consistently that you understand your responsibilities. Doing those things will enhance your day-to-day experience. You will learn much more than you think by simply being aware of what's happening outside your own little world. How well you integrate yourself into the larger effort will determine the ultimate progression and success of the group.

**ABILITY** • In the end, your actual performance ability, as opposed to your potential, will be the direct result of the level of your commitment to the A's. Your ability improves in proportion to your attendance, to your attitude and to your awareness.

As a member of the Downingtown Indoor Percussion Ensemble, you will be measured against those A's. They are your standard. Your degree of success will reflect how well you've mastered them.

-All members will be held to all instruction given. It is your job to apply the changes given by your instructors, and maintain them, as you are inevitably going to receive more and more instruction throughout the season.

→All technical comments (i.e. instruction given in regards to the way you are playing/your hands) are to be applied all season long.

## THE MENTAL APPROACH

The proper mental approach is easy to explain, but difficult to develop.

The following points are the keys to finding your way into it.

- A) Keep your mind open and your attitude positive.
- B) Be ready to concentrate collectively (remember: ensemble) on the same thing for extended periods of time, without breaks.
- C) Discipline yourself.
- D) Know the program.
- E) Understand the program.
- F) Apply the program.
- G)

## **Leadership - Know Your Role**

There is a hierarchy of leadership in place at the Downingtown Indoor Percussion Ensemble to provide for an efficient means of operation for the program. This system allows for an efficient flow of information and allows student leadership to handle everyday responsibilities of the ensemble. We strive to offer leadership opportunities for every member on a day-to-day basis and encourage the members to develop problem-solving skills and apply them to the ensemble and, ultimately, to the rest of their lives.

### **DIRECTOR**

The director is in charge of everything logistical about the group. Show design, finding rehearsal space, communicating with staff members, contacting administrators and show coordinators, collecting membership fees, communicating with parents, and running ensemble rehearsals are just a few of the responsibilities of the director. The director is responsible for the entire program and oversees its operation on a day-to-day basis.

### **INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF**

The instructional staff (also known as technicians or “techs”) is responsible for the education and motivation of the members. Some of their responsibilities include running ensemble rehearsals in the absence of the director, running sectional and sub-sectional rehearsals, giving private lessons when available, contributing to show design, and communicating with the director and with the members. The staff is the communication link between the members and the director.

### **SECTION LEADERS**

Student leaders are held to higher standards of performance and behavior than a general member. They are to be positive role models for all members at all times. The section leaders are appointed by the director and instructional staff. There is one section leader for snares (usually assumes the unit captain position also), quads, basses, cymbals, and front ensemble. These section leaders are often the most experienced players and demonstrate leadership qualities in everything they do. Section leaders are responsible for efficient operations of their sections. They will maintain discipline in rehearsal, serve as positive role models, provide instruction in the absence of their tech, and assist the staff as needed. The section leaders can micro-manage small problems that come up within their sections to maintain efficiency in operations of the entire ensemble.

### **MEMBERS**

The members are all performing students in the group. They are to report to their section leaders. Responsibilities of the members are simple: be punctual and focused at rehearsals and understand and apply all information and instruction given by staff or section leaders. Members are their own leaders and will develop leadership and problem-solving skills through experience. The members are expected to give 100% effort to the group at all times. The dedication and participation of the members in the rehearsal and mental process is expected and will be directly related to our success as an ensemble.



**MEMBER EXPENSES 2011-2012**  
**These Fees are Subject to Change**

Uniform Expenses	\$55
Show Writing and Design	\$20
Contest Entry Fees	\$5
Instructional Staff	\$20
Equipment/props	\$25
Music Licensing/Recording fee	\$10
Transportation	\$15
<b>Total Activity Fee</b>	<b>\$150</b>

You may pay the fee at any time before our first competition, February 18, 2011. Please be aware there may be some incidental charges. We will make every effort to keep these nominal.

As the Music Parents Association is a nonprofit organization, we must pay our bills in a professional and timely manner. It is important you pay your fees by the dates listed to provide the needed cash flow necessary for us to conduct our affairs.

*The deadline for activity fees is the day of our first competition, **February 18, 2011**. If you do not submit your fee, you will not compete with the group. If you wish to set up a payment plan, please talk to the director.*

## **INDOOR REHEARSALS**

Indoor rehearsals are typically 3 hours long during the week, with marathon rehearsals on the weekends. It is extremely important for all members to be prepared for rehearsal. Members are responsible for having their music memorized ***before*** rehearsal. Members are expected to show up to rehearsal and be focused on the goal of attaining excellence. The members of the Downingtown Indoor Percussion Ensemble will be treated as professionals. In turn, the staff will expect professional behavior from all members.

### **THINGS TO BRING TO REHEARSAL**

- Proper rehearsal attire (see below)
  - Instrument
  - Metronome that can subdivide
  - Music and Drill in sheet protectors in a 3-ring binder with a strap or shoelace or something to keep it attached to you and a PENCIL to mark changes and drill charts.
  - Insulated Water Bottle (You won't always have time to go to the water fountain)
  - Backpack to carry music binder and personal items (phone, wallet, etc. These items may not be brought on the floor, and the school is not responsible for lost or stolen items, so members will line up their backpacks with their instruments before rehearsal)
- FOR DRUMLINE - sticks and mallets (must be taped ***before*** rehearsal), stick tape, ear protection, instrument and instrument covers
- FOR FRONT ENSEMBLE - sticks and mallets, instrument and covers, ear protection, electronic equipment associated with your instrument

We have an abundance of equipment in our program and we will need to devise a system of transporting everything. Understand that members will be assigned equipment to move and YOU will be responsible for YOUR assigned equipment.

### **REHEARSAL ATTIRE**

Indoor Percussion is an athletic activity and requires the ability to be flexible in your clothes. Members must wear the appropriate attire. Typically the ensemble rehearses in a gymnasium, but occasionally we will outside if weather permits. The following are required for rehearsals:

- Loose-fitting T-shirt (preferably white)
- Mesh athletic shorts or sweats (no jeans)
- Socks (required)
- Cross trainer sneakers with good arch support (no skate shoes, flip flops, boots, etc.)
- Knee pads may be recommended based on the visual demand of the show

## REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE AND COMMANDS

Rehearsals are run with a very strict rehearsal technique. All members will follow proper rehearsal etiquette while at Indoor to maintain a professional atmosphere and to allow for the greatest potential for achieving excellence. The following is the sequence of commands and gestures given by the staff during one assignment in rehearsal. This rehearsal process is proven and will be strictly followed by all members.

### COMMANDS

*“Receiving”* (also called *“Stand-by”*) --- Members are to stand at the defined “parade rest.” Front Ensemble members will put their sticks and/or mallets away and stand with their hands together relaxed in front of them. Battery percussionists will stand with feet shoulder-width apart and put their sticks together on the drum, one hand on top of the other. Bass drums will hold their mallets behind their back and cymbals will hold their cymbals in front of their waist. Head and eyes of all members are directed towards the press box or bleachers where instructions and assignments will be given. The members will not speak unless answering a specific question asked by an instructor.

*“Set”* --- All members stand with feet together and with proper posture. The instrument or equipment is at attention (sticks in). Front Ensemble will have a defined “Set” position. The staff will give instruction for the assignment.

*“Minus 1”* --- Members will bring their instrument or equipment to playing position (unless otherwise called for in the show) and put their feet in the “minus 1” position (left foot is placed one step in the direction of the previous drill chart)

*At this point, the metronome will give 8 counts and the members will complete the given assignment.*

*“Check”* --- Members will again go to the “minus 1” position and check the drill form with their EYES ONLY (Do not turn the head to look at form). Slight adjustments should be made to form spacing and shape at this time. Instruments and equipment are still in playing position.

*“Adjust”* --- Members now look in their dot books and stand on their drill dots. Feet are together and instruments and equipment returns to attention (as in the “set” position).

*“Receiving”* --- Members return to receiving position as defined above

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This rehearsal process is fast-paced and will become second hand through repetition. All members are expected to be able to execute these commands when called for in rehearsal.

## **TAKING CARE**

Members' uniforms are designed with care by the design staff and change each year depending on the show concept. Each member will be fitted and assigned a custom-tailored uniform before the show season. You may be required to purchase your own shoes (usually between \$22-30) if you are a new member or if your feet have grown. Members will be required to wear specific uniform clothes underneath their show uniform as warmups before the show may be done without wearing all or part of the uniform.

### **UNIFORM CARE PROCEDURES**

1. All uniforms are to be kept on hangers and in good condition. The cost of the uniform comes out of the activity budget. If a member abuses a uniform, they will be responsible for replacement or repair.
2. Along with the issued uniform, members will wear uniform shoes, socks, and shirts at each performance.
3. When in uniform: No PDA (You are representing your school), no eating, no swearing, no running (unless told to do so by a staff member).
4. Never walk alone in uniform. You must always be with another uniformed member of Downingtown Indoor Percussion. It is a sign of respect to the uniform to always walk in groups.
5. Everyone should be professional while in a performance setting. Unprofessional behavior could be cause for dismissal from the program.

### **CARE FOR THE EQUIPMENT**

The instruments are to be treated with the finest care. Nothing should EVER be placed on top of keyboard instruments, drums, or timpani for any reason short of mallets, sticks, and covers. Instruments are to be covered at all times when they are not being played. Mallets and sticks are never to be placed on the ground/floor. You wouldn't put a flute or trumpet on the floor where someone could step on it or it could pick up all kinds of dirt. No one outside the membership of a section is permitted to play any instrument without permission from an instructor. Every time an instrument is moved, all screws and moving parts must be tightened before and after it is moved.

The pit will have a heavy load of electronic equipment and every member will be responsible for their assigned items. A system will be developed where every member is responsible for something. Speed and care is important, especially in show settings. More will be explained as electronics are added when the rehearsal season starts.

### **CARE FOR THE GROUP**

There are many parts of this activity that go way beyond playing and marching. Far more important is how well you work with the group, how well you interact with others from different backgrounds, different ability levels, different ages, and different experience levels. We are all in this together and you have to take care of each other no matter what. Part of your audition will include your ability to become part of the group and bring others into the group. Even though you are in competition with each other for spots in the group you should still help each other become great! Who knows, that might be the very action that gets you a spot.

## **CONTESTS AND INVITATIONAL PERFORMANCES**

By Thursday, if possible, a schedule detailing the time line for the contest day, meal plans, and directions will be available in the band office and/or on the Facebook page. Encourage your student to bring one home so you will be aware of the specific times.

Parents should plan to attend as many functions as possible. This is a good way to meet parents, get to know other members, and support the band for all their hard work. Look for other Downingtown parents at the contests. The parents try to sit together in a block to cheer our students on and off the floor.

When driving to the contests, parents can either follow the caravan or get the directions from google maps using the address provided on the on the contest schedule for the week. **After the contest** you may come to the bus area to celebrate with the members. We want to minimize the amount of stress or anxiety our children experience before the performance, so they are usually not permitted to mingle with friends or family outside of the ensemble in order for them to remain at the highest level of focus.

### **BUS CARRY ONS**

- Bottled Water, NO GLASS CONTAINERS
- Jacket or sweatshirt and pants for cool late nights
- Necessary items and personal items in backpack (money for after shows, phone, iPods)
- Pillow and/or blanket

### **NON MEMBERS RIDING THE BUS**

Apart from chaperones, no one outside the membership of the Downingtown Indoor Percussion Ensemble is permitted to ride with the group to competitions. The bus ride is a time for the members to focus on the task at hand: performing a great show. Non members are not permitted to ride with the ensemble. No exceptions.

### **PARENT RELEASES - PICKING UP A STUDENT AT THE CONTEST SITE**

Occasionally parents may need to take their child directly following the contest. This must be taken care of in writing. When picking up a student at the contest site, student or parent must give their bus chaperone a written note, signed by their parent or guardian, before the student may be released. No student will be allowed to leave a contest site with anyone other than his or her parent or another adult, without written permission from their parent or guardian. Parents may be asked for identification if chaperone is not familiar with the parent. These requirements are in place to protect you and your student. The student is also responsible for having someone else unload their instrument and anything else they are responsible for when returning to the school.

### **PARENT PICKUP AT SCHOOL FROM PRACTICE OR COMPETITIONS**

If you are picking up your child after a competition, please park your car and come to the band equipment vehicles. Help is always needed and appreciated to unload the equipment so everyone can go home promptly.

## **PARENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

The Downingtown Indoor Percussion Ensemble provides wonderful opportunities for both you and your child. This program like any great program, requires a great deal of both physical and financial support. Through out the year there are many opportunities for adults to be involved with the band program. We need your help to continue to be successful. Some of these opportunities are described below.

### **CHAPERONES**

Parents or guardians may only chaperone events in which their students are participating. Only assigned members and chaperones are allowed to ride the bus.

Chaperones are required on every bus for every trip the band takes. A chaperone's responsibilities are to make sure the members are on the bus and are acting appropriately. They will check off each member's name from a list provided by the band department. Before leaving a site, they will make sure they have all members and/or a note from the member's parent. When returning from a trip the chaperone will assign members to check the bus to make sure it is clean and nothing is left on the bus.

### **GUIDELINES FOR CHAPERONES**

- This program is designed for students. Be patient, flexible, and helpful.
- Make sure everyone understands all instructions.
- Communicate—get to know the members by name.
- Report any rule violations to the director; but don't create problems.
- Be courteous and helpful; correct if necessary, but don't antagonize.
- You cannot grant a favor for one unless you can do it for everyone!
- BE PATIENT—DON'T LOSE YOUR SENSE OF HUMOR!

### **FUNDRAISERS**

Parent and student involvement is crucial to the success of many of our fundraisers. The Downingtown Indoor Percussion Ensemble will be organizing multiple fundraisers to increase our visibility in the community and to raise money for the organization. **All members should participate, even one dollar raised is a huge help to the organization!**

### **CONCESSIONS AT OUR HOME SHOW**

We will require volunteers to run the concession stand at our home show on March 17, 2012. The volunteers will work in shifts throughout the day. More information will be given on this opportunity as the competition approaches.

## **SEWING**

Our uniforms are custom tailored and designed for the members of our ensemble. However, we compete in a highly athletic activity carrying heavy drums on metal harnesses. Wear and tear on the uniforms is expected and must be dealt with. We will periodically need to alter or repair the uniforms to keep the members of the ensemble looking their best. We also may need help designing and creating additional costumes and props. We have a couple of people who are old pros at putting these types of things together and will be happy to teach you what you need to know.

## **EQUIPMENT/RUNNERS**

Equipment parents help all year with whatever needs to be moved, fixed or built. During the indoor season, we need parents that will help move all the pit equipment on and off the field/floor. Our ensemble brings at least two trailers worth of equipment to our shows. Every member of the ensemble is responsible for a piece or pieces of equipment, but at show sites, we will still need volunteers to help move our equipment such as the floor, props, and the equipment trailers. We always need help with building/repairing such things as uniform carts and percussion instrument carts. Our shows often require props. We need volunteers that can saw, hammer, nail, glue and paint to build these props. There will always be an ongoing need for general maintenance on our equipment and props.

**Please consider being involved.** There is always something that needs to be done. Your help is greatly appreciated. Don't wait to be asked, if you see something going on that looks interesting to you, offer to help. It is a great way to meet not only your children's friends but also their parents.

## FAQ's for Parents

### **Q. What if something comes up and I need to pick up my child or take my child to a contest instead of letting them ride the bus?**

A. If possible, please inform the directors in advance. Please give the chaperone on the bus a note if your child rode to the contest but will not be riding home. The buses cannot leave a contest until all members are accounted for.

### **Q. What kind of food does my child need to take with them to a contest or an all day practice?**

A. They need to have nutritious food and water, lots of water. The members typically have an hour for lunch at Saturday rehearsals. Food should be packed for the bus rides to competitions, as the members will not get a chance to eat until after they perform and load the truck.

### **Q. How do I get to a show?**

A. You can car pool with other parents or drive yourself following the directions that are usually on the show schedules in the band room.

### **Q. What is M.A.P.S.?**

A. The Mid-Atlantic Percussion Society (M.A.P.S.) is a competitive indoor percussion circuit that hosts competitions in the Delaware Valley. They work on WGI rules and regulations and often have the same judges. M.A.P.S. Championships are on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at Coatesville High School. Visit <[www.midatlanticpercussionsociety.org](http://www.midatlanticpercussionsociety.org)> for more info.

### **Q. What is WGI?**

A. Winter Guard International (WGI) is the world's premier organization producing indoor color guard and percussion ensemble competitions. It is a 35-year-old organization that hosts contests all over the country. This year's WGI World Championships are held in Dayton, Ohio from April 18<sup>th</sup>-April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012. Over 11,000 performers competed in the World Championships last year before an audience of over 40,000 fans. Please visit <[www.wgi.org](http://www.wgi.org)> for more information, including promotional videos, parent sections, and performer videos.

### **Q. Why should I buy WGI tickets for A Class and World Class Finals?**

A. The Downingtown Indoor Percussion Ensemble competes in the Scholastic A class, but part of the school's WGI membership includes tickets for the Independent World Finals (See [wgi.org](http://wgi.org) for what this means). World Finals are a highly entertaining and educational experience and allows the members to see their activity executed at the highest level of excellence.

### **Q. What else will I have to pay for?**

A. Most other expenses are voluntary. There will be pictures offered from professional photographers at some of the events. These photographers work independently and the Music Parents Association does not make any money from these sales.



**Q. When does the ensemble rehearse and what time is rehearsal over?**

A. The directors will put out a schedule for rehearsals. Typically, the group rehearses from 6pm-9pm Tuesday and Thursday, and 9am-5pm Saturday when there are not shows. The scheduled time for rehearsal means the end of rehearsal. Members usually take an additional 15-20 minutes to pack up all the equipment.

**Q. How can I get calendars, schedules and other important information?**

A. A calendar of major events is provided at the end of this packet. Apart from regular rehearsals, any changes to the schedule as well as important announcements will be made known on the Facebook page.

**Q. If I can't find the answer to my question in this book who do I ask?**

A. There is a list of staff members in the front of this packet. Feel free to call a staff member with any questions. The director's phone number and email are on the front cover. They will be happy to help you if they can or will direct you to the right person. Often times, veteran parents are the ones with the best information.

# Downingtown Indoor Percussion Ensemble

## 2011-2012 Calendar of Major Events

*Subject to change at the discretion of the director.*

Date	Event	Location	Start
11/8/11	Informational Meeting	DWHS	7:00PM
11/12/11	Marching Band Cavalcade Championships	Hershey, PA	All Day
11/15/11	First Indoor Rehearsal	DWHS	6:00PM
11/19/11	First Saturday Rehearsal	DWHS	9:00AM
12/4/11	Sunday Rehearsal	DWHS	9:00AM
12/6/11	Placement Auditions	DWHS	6:00PM
2/18/12	M.A.P.S. Competition	Timber Creek HS	6:00PM
2/25/12	M.A.P.S. Competition	North Penn HS	6:00PM
3/3/12	M.A.P.S. Competition	Twin Valley HS	1:00PM
3/10/12	M.A.P.S. Competition	Methacton HS	5:00PM
3/17/12	M.A.P.S. Home Show	DWHS	1:00PM
3/24/12	WGI Regional	Norristown HS	TBA
4/14/12	M.A.P.S. Championships	Coatesville HS	TBA
4/18-4/21/12	WGI World Championships	University of Dayton Arena, Dayton, OH	TBA

### NOTE ON COMPETITIONS:

The Downingtown Indoor Percussion Ensemble will rehearse on competition dates. Report time will be announced the week of the competition. Typically, rehearsal will start early in the morning regardless of what time the show is.

### NOTE ON REHEARSALS:

The Downingtown Indoor Percussion Ensemble rehearses every Tuesday and Thursday from 6pm-9pm, and Saturday 9am-5pm beginning November 15, 2011, until the week of WGI Championships. Members are expected to be at all of these rehearsals.

#### No rehearsals on these days:

November 24 (Thanksgiving), 2011

November 29, 2011

December 3 (Moved to December 4), 2011

December 24, 27, 29, 31 (Winter Break)

*Rehearsals may be rescheduled or cancelled at the discretion of the director. Due notice will always be given via the Facebook page well in advance. We appreciate your flexibility.*

# **DOWNTOWN INDOOR PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE PARENT/MEMBER HANDBOOK**

*Compiled by:  
Josh Bailey*

*With assistance from:  
Andrew Szygula  
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*Influenced by:  
Carolina Crown technique packet, Zach Schlicher  
United Percussion member packet  
Marching Percussion Information Packet, by Gabe Staznik  
Avon High School Member Handbook  
Darren Hazlett  
Nick Buddock  
PAS, percussive notes*

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Updated October 30, 2011*

*In the end we as a staff want the members to gain the experience of being exceptional at something (any and/or all skills involved with this activity and music), and realize how much work and effort it took to get there. Thus being able to apply that to the rest of their life.*

# Member/Parent Agreement

*Fill out this page and return before the placement auditions.*

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Print Member Name), have read and acknowledge all information in this handbook. By giving my signature I certify that I am responsible for the information in this handbook and for fulfilling my role as a member in the Downingtown Indoor Percussion Ensemble and I realize the commitment required to this program for the entire season.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Print Parent Name), have read and acknowledge all information in this handbook. By giving my signature I certify that I am responsible for the information in this handbook and for assisting my child to fulfill his or her role as a member in the Downingtown Indoor Percussion Ensemble and I am aware of the commitment my child will require to the program for the entire season.

**Member Signature**

**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature**

**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_