

BAND TERMS TO KNOW

Adjudicator - Person who judges the show, awards points, and determines placements. Judges are located in both the press box and on the field. Some judges move through and around the band as they perform.

Auxiliary - Another term for the Color Guard members of a band.

Battery - The percussion group which consists of the quads, snare, and bass drums along with the cymbals.

Bands of America (BOA) The organization that organizes the regional and national competitions. The BOA office is located in Indianapolis.

Caption Awards Refers to the different categories or band sections used in judging the competition. Outstanding Music, Outstanding Marching and Outstanding General Effect are the three captions used in most competitions.

Classes. - Refers to the class of competition in which the band competes in BOA. Bands are classified by school enrollment (not band size), grades 10-12 only. Plymouth Canton competes in Class AAA which is based on enrollment of 1150 students and above.

Color Guard - The color guard is selected by audition. Usually a very strong dance background is necessary. It uses flags and other props to enhance the program. The Color Guard is a physically demanding, but very rewarding role.

Drum Corps International (DCI) - An organization that administers a summer marching activity that involves thousands of young adults (ages 10-21) Brass players, percussionists, and color guard members can be involved. Several students and staff members of our band participate with different corps located in the Midwest

Dinkles - The standard black marching band shoe.

Exhibition - A performance by a group that usually is not scored by the judging panel. If they are scored, the totals do not have to be made public. Many new bands will compete in exhibition for the first year. It is also common for the host school to march in exhibition and not compete at their own show.

Flight - Refers to the class of competition in which the band competes. It is based on school size. Plymouth Canton competes in Flight I, which comprises the largest schools.

General Effect - A caption of judging. This judge looks and listens to the overall performance of the band.

Governor's Trophy - This trophy is sponsored by Michigan's governor and the Michigan Competing Band Association (MCBA). The association that governs the competing band activity in Michigan.

Parent's Booster Banquet This banquet is held in February or March to thank all the adults that help during the band season. Senior parents are also honored.

The Pit - This refers to the non-marching percussionists located on the field. Percussion members and those who play keyboards or other electric instruments occupy this area.

Set books - Small spiral notebooks that students wear on a cord around their necks during the beginning of the season. These notebooks contain each student's coordinates for each drill position in the marching program. Every student will have 80-100 coordinates during the program.

Shako - The military style band hat. The plume is attached for competition.

Variety Is! - The student variety show scheduled in January/February of each year. Marching band members must be available for additional rehearsals, dress rehearsal and two nights of performance. Daytime bands, percussion ensembles, color guard and jazz bands are also involved.

Winter Guard A dance/movement activity that competes in the winter. It is closely related to the color guard in marching band. The activity takes place on a gym floor.

Michigan Competing Band Association Judging System

It is the position of MCBA that music is the more important aspect of the Performance, with marching as the presentation and visual enhancement of the program. Similarly, more emphasis has been placed on the effectiveness to the audience and to the general effect judges, than on fine-line perfection of the performance judges - which may be an aspect to work on for even better effectiveness. Consequently, the weight of the numbers in the MCBA scoring system places 60% of the value on music and 40% on visual, and at the same time, 60% of the score is within the area of general effect and 40% within the performance area. The point allotment of the competition is as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 20 points* | Music Performance Individual |
| 20 points* | Music Performance Ensemble |
| <i>(*Averaged for a total of 20 points)</i> | |
| 20 points* | Visual Performance Individual |
| 20 points* | Visual Performance Ensemble |
| <i>(*Averaged for a total of 20 points)</i> | |
| 40 points | General Effect Music (2 judges -20 points each) |
| 20 points | General Effect Visual |
| Timing and Penalties Judge | |
| 100 points | Total Possible |

An explanation of how each score is obtained follows:

Music Performance Individual: This judge is located on the field and is free to move about. Comments and evaluations are voice recorded and written,

Music Performance Ensemble: This judge is located in the stands or in the press box, whichever location affords him/her the best vantage point. Comments and evaluations are voice recorded and written.

Visual Performance Individual: This judge is located on the field and is free to move about. Comments and evaluations are voice recorded and written.

Visual Performance Ensemble: This judge is located in the stands or in the press box, whichever location affords him/her the best vantage point. Comments and evaluations are voice recorded and written.

General Effect Music: These judges are located in the press box. Comments and evaluations are voice recorded and written. There are two judges in this caption.

General Effect Visual: This judge is located in the press box. Comments and evaluations are voice recorded and written.

All score sheets are subjective. Bands begin with zero points and earn credit proportionate to the positive presentation of performance, proficiency and design. The process of impression, analysis and comparison is the method whereby number grades are earned. Although *impression* and *analysis* may indicate a particular score, it is through *comparison* that a specific score and subsequent scores are determined.