



Normal Community  
High School  
**Marching Percussion Program**

2008 Fall Percussion Program

# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Normal Community High School Percussion Program!

Our fall program has been growing very successfully the past couple of years and it is intended to continue this growth through the next season. If you choose to join this program, make sure you are able to commit to the full amount of time and resources to the activity for its entire duration, as it can be disastrous if members leave mid-season. If you join the program, we are counting on you to stick with it. Our goal is to have a program that will further the musical talents of our members and at the same time create an experience that is enjoyable to everyone involved. We will do this with an extensive exercise program that will break down skills at a very individualized level. We will then use all of our knowledge to put together our fall Marching Band show to showcase what we have learned. We feel as a staff this will be a key point in making this percussion program one of the finest in the state.

To become a successful member of Normal Community High School's Percussion Ensemble yourself, a very strict adherence to the following program will be expected of you at all times.

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*“The goal of the Normal Community High School Percussion Ensemble every year is to grow as an overall musician and expand our talents to the highest level possible!”*

Understanding our mission statement will be of the utmost importance to the success of the program for the upcoming season. Learn it and live by it! It will be the credo by which we live throughout every single minute of rehearsal and performance over the season. Remember, actions always speak louder than words! We *will* transform our promise to be the best that we can be into reality. This will mean making time when there is none. Together, we will come through rehearsal after rehearsal focused on the ultimate goal.

## THE THREE A'S

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

**ATTITUDE** • When your attitude is completely positive and you are eager to learn despite the challenges, you can — and will — achieve all of the goals you set for yourself!

**ABILITY** • In the end, your ability is the direct result of the level of your commitment to the above two A's. Your ability improves parallel to your attendance and to your attitude.

As a member of the Normal Community High School percussion section, you will be measured against the Three A's. They are your standard and all of your success will be reflective of how well you've mastered them.

## THE PROGRAM

With regular practice of the following program, you will be sure to improve yourself both as an individual and as a member of your ensemble. Remember, it is *your* responsibility to practice the program concept as outlined on these pages. Also, as a member you will have to come prepared to every rehearsal. The people involved in this ensemble will always be at the highest level of professionalism at all times. We will excel with our maturity. The following program outline as well as information that we go over throughout the season will help us attain this.

Always consider the following points when rehearsing on your own and as an ensemble:

- Practice daily for improvement.
- Play slowly at first, speeding up only after you are sure you are playing correctly.
- Play in front of a mirror, paying particular attention to your style and technique
- Use a metronome!

## TECHNIQUE

- Each instrument will have an individual technique packet with the details on how we play.

## MUSICAL STANDARDS

A) An understanding of the full dynamic range of levels:

<i>p</i>	· 3 inches
<i>mp</i>	· 6 inches
<i>mf</i>	· 9 inches
<i>f</i>	· 12 inches
<i>ff</i>	· 15 inches

B) Correct tempos must be known when practicing the music!

C) Quality of Sound

Achieved through:

- 1) listening
- 2) balancing
- 3) playing a lot!

## THE MENTAL PROCESS

The proper approach to the mental process is always easy to explain, but is the most difficult to attain. The following points are only a brief 'outline' of the process:

- A) Concentration      - of everyone on the same thing  
                                 - for extended periods of time (i.e. without breaks)
- B) Self-discipline
- C) Understanding the program

## IN CONCLUSION ...

This program should only be used as a guideline. We will expand on it greatly and modify it accordingly throughout the season. It is, however, the key to a unified and cohesive percussion ensemble! Be assured that each and every one of the aforementioned concepts and many more will be discussed in much greater detail throughout the season.

Be aware that the task you are about to undertake is a formidable one and will require an unparalleled amount of self-discipline and dedication on your part. However, if you stick to the program and are ever-mindful of the Three A's, you will find that your experiences here will be positive, educational and fun! In short, you will have successfully accomplished your mission.

Best of luck,

The Instructional Staff  
Normal Community High School Percussion Ensemble:

Matthew E. Rice

Mike Leitzke