



Tips for Student Leaders

Your actions are the most powerful tool you have.

- To say that actions speak louder than words is an understatement.
 - If you are late, you say it's ok to be late.
 - If you get out your cell phone during rehearsal, you say it's ok to get out your cell phone.
 - If you carry on conversations, you say it's ok to chat during rehearsal.
 - If you don't try hard, you say it's ok not to try hard.
 - If you act defiant, you say it's ok for everyone to act defiant.
 - If you think you're above rules and policies, you say it's ok for everyone to act that way.
 - If you make sarcastic comments under your breath about decisions or the staff, you say it's ok for them to make the same comments.

Know how to deal with complaints

- If another student comes to you with a complaint, you should try something like this: *"I don't make decisions, but I'm sure they had a good reason. If you have a problem, you should speak to a director, but I'm going to keep doing my best to make our show as good as it can be."*
- You are not a director and will not be present at policy and decision making meetings. That isn't your job. Coaches decide who starts, and what plays are ran. In contrast, we decide what music is played, who plays it, and how it's played. This is our job. Sometimes the "why" is obvious and sometimes it isn't. Help everyone to remember this.
- Your likes, and dislikes are just that, yours. Any undermining of the staff would only make it harder for everyone to do their job. Don't let this happen to you. *You were picked for a reason and are too good to fall into that trap.*

Remember to put a positive face on what we all do.

- Be the person who tries harder even when rehearsals go bad.
- Try harder when you don't understand the "why".
- When speaking to another student, being proved right isn't winning. Being really good is winning. Say and do what it takes to be really good, even if it means not saying or holding back what you really wanted to say.
 - Remember, there will be students who wanted your job.
 - Their feelings may be hurt. Don't take it personal.
 - Be ready, they will point out every mistake you make.
 - Because they will point out your faults, it is even more important to "practice what you preach".
 - Try not to be serious one minute and "one of the gang" the next. Show them there is a time for fun and a time for seriousness.
 - Be patient with other students who you may have had negative experiences with in the past.
 - If things get to stressful, you may want to point out that "even if you don't like me, we're still in the same band and we both want to be good."
 - Don't treat students you have had negative experiences with differently. It's hard, but you can do it.
 - Keep personal likes and dislikes off of the field.

Jobs of the Student Leaders

Remember, this is not an inherited position. No one is a section leader because they have seniority. You have a job to do. Do it well. Be the best. Don't let someone else in your section out march or play you. Be confident and remember, we had the confidence to pick you. Rise to the occasion.

- Be Learn the names of your section/band and greet them when you see them outside of rehearsal.
- Offer rides for students who need them.
- If another student is struggling, offer to help them one on one. No one likes being singled out in front of the section.
- Section Leaders should make sure their section has what they need. I.e. Gloves, black socks, music, drill, reeds, etc. A bag of cheap black socks is inexpensive and a couple of extra pair of gloves may come in very handy.
- Be a friendly face to everyone in your section/band. Don't let them see you making fun of other members of your section to your friends.
- Be the first to arrive and the last to leave. Ask if there is anything extra to do.
- Section leaders should have a sectional once a week.
- Find a passage of music and address that passage in a sectional. Don't try to fix the whole show at once.
- Spend at least one hour each week in the band room. See the band staff for jobs.