Dear Incoming Marching Band Freshmen (or freshman to the band),

Thank you for expressing interest in one of the finest marching bands in the world, the Purdue University All-American Marching Band! First things first, let us tell you all a secret. In order to avoid having to use the full name of the band, you can just use "AAMB" to save time and energy. Also, it makes you sound like you know what's going on. You don't need to use fancy acronyms to prove anything to us, though. We already know you're on top of your game just by getting into a school as prestigious as Purdue. No matter where you're from or what your major is, we're sure you will have the time of your life at this university.

As you all know, band camp is in your future. Don't be frightened, it's not that scary. But, at the same time, assume nothing. Many people underestimate the skill level involved in the AAMB. In actuality, a large percentage of the members of our over 340 person band have been student leaders and drum majors of their high school bands, and bring their musical excellence with them to college. Now for a few tips!

"What should I do to be ready for band camp?"

Even though your music audition is out of the way, we encourage you to keep playing over the summer. Feeling ambitious? Memorize Hail Purdue (or at least the words)! You'll be playing it many times, along with the other two fights songs, throughout the season. Besides keeping up with the music, be sure to stay active. College marching band is a little different from high school, and band camp will be physically demanding. No, we do not make you run laps or suicides, but it is a lot of time on your feet.

"What can I expect from band camp?"

Each day will generally be broken up into marching and playing segments. Music rehearsals will either be with the full band or with your respective sections. Marching segments are where you will learn Purdue's marching style, the "chair-step". You will find in sectionals and marching sessions that the student leaders will be the ones teaching you. The Purdue Band department is one of few who entrust this much responsibility to their student leaders, and over the years it has seen continuous success. So you are in very good hands. On Friday, section leaders will announce the members they have chosen to be part of each section. Yes, the student leaders are also responsible for who makes the band. Regardless of whether or not you end up being a member of the AAMB, you will find that the friendships you make during band camp are long lasting.

Music Notes! (haha, Get it? Get it?)

Purdue Bands started in 1886 as a military band! For over 120 years, we've been amazing! We have a really big bass drum, the oldest marching band formation, massive flags at pregame, and tons of other band firsts that you will soon learn. Purdue has three fight songs. Yes, three. That's how awesome we are! We also have something called the band cheer. You will learn this! To normal people it sounds random. But you will learn of it's awesome power!

Have questions?

No problem! Please feel free to ask your section leaders or ourselves. Find us on Facebook, send us emails, carrier pigeons, anything goes. We like hearing from you guys (we promise we aren't those jerk drum majors who everyone is scared of…but we are pretty tall). And one more thing, we do get a lot of questions are hear from a lot of new members, but please don't be offended if we don't remember come band camp. We have over 340 band members, and almost twice as many that try out every year. It's a lot of names and faces, but we promise we will do our best to get to know you. So at camp, feel free to come up to us and chat. We aren't mean (again…just very tall).

Sincerely,

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