

Dakota Combined Schools 2026 Marimba Audition Packet



Rationale: Marimba players in our winter drumline utilize many specialized skillsets that require a fair amount of time to develop and master. The audition process allows us as a staff to see *who has what it takes* to play music consisting of these skillsets. We also believe this audition process helps students in establishing a consistent practice routine, which is crucial to the success of our entire ensemble. While audition season can be stressful, it tends to be a period of significant growth for many students. You will not regret auditioning for marimba—it *can only help you*, even if you end up playing one of the many other crucially important instruments in the front ensemble.

The audition: Marimba auditionees must prepare the 4 mallet etude, 2 mallet etude, and the Advanced Combinations Exercise. Auditions for marimba will be held via video submission and must be turned in no later than **Thursday, November 13th 2025 at 11:59PM.** Submit the video via an unlisted youtube link.

The legacy: There is a long history of incredible players who have played on our marimba line! Many went on to continue in music after high school and become significant players within the marching arts community. See below if you are interested in some front ensemble history:

Selection of notable marimba alumni:

Nik Srouer (2018-2021)

- Member of Redline, Michigan's finest World Class percussion ensemble.
- Member of The Academy Drum and Bugle Corps, World Class DCI group from Arizona
- Instructor at several successful front ensembles in Michigan including Dakota.

Gianni Rosa (2017-2020)

- Member of Cap City Percussion; earned a spot in World Class Finals several times
- Could play Green Scales with Inside Mallets at 200+bpm his senior year.

Bee Fairman (2018-2021)

- Our first front ensemble alumni to earn a coveted spot on the marimba line at Redline Percussion (2023.)

Joey Gralka (2019-2022)

- Member of Redline Percussion.
- Could play Broccoli at 200BPM his senior year.

Kolie Adams (2015-2018)

- Our first alumni to earn a spot in a World Class WGI Group (Redline Percussion.)

Beavis Notman (2018-2021)

- Our first alumni to earn a spot in a World Class Drum Corps. (The Academy Drum and Bugle Corps.)
- Front Ensemble Instructor at Spring Lake, winners of the Flight 4 Percussion Caption Award at MCBA Finals in 2024.
- Front Ensemble Instructor at Chippewa Valley

Chris Sinelli (2014-2017)

- Our first front ensemble alumni to march an independent WGI line. (Eclipse Percussion.)

Spencer Brong (2022-2025)

- Earned a spot at The Academy Drum and Bugle Corps on vibraphone.

Jacob Steinberger (2010-2013)

- Current Band Director at Malow Jr. High School
- Former Director of Bands at University Liggett School
- Long and highly successful career in music education

-Sticking of bar 31 should be 3232323232

24

p *pp* *mp* *mf*

29

R L 4 1 3 2 4 1 3 2 4 1 3 2 R L R L R L R L R 4 2 3 1 3 2 4 2 3 2 3 2

32

4 1 3 2 4 1 3 2 4 1 3 2

f *ff*

2 Mallet Etude:

Notes:

- Sticking should be alternating the whole time, right hand lead
- This excerpt is from our 2018 production, "Spark"

♩=180



Advanced Combinations:

Notes:

- The marimba line played this during our 2023 season, "Fight Night."
- Ignore the timpani part on the bottom line
- Pick a tempo of your choosing

Keyboards

Timpani