



Caitlyn (left) and Allison (right) Frahm lead Central's marching band during half-time at Brady Stadium.

Staff Photo

DRUM MAJORS DIRECT CENTRAL'S MARCHING BAND DURING FOOTBALL HALF-TIME SHOW

by Amelia Balk and Hanah Conger

The deafening sounds of trumpets blaring and snare drums tapping can be heard underneath the Friday night lights from the Davenport Central Marching Band. Leading the band are Caitlyn and Allison Frahm conducting as senior drum majors.

"I wanted to become drum major because I thought it would be fun, and I wanted to help people. I was also excited to have a leadership position, which would help people grow throughout the season," said Caitlyn.

In marching band, a drum major is the highest role a student can have. Because of this, there is a rigorous process selection. Potential drum majors need to get teacher recommendation forms filled out before the interview even starts. During the interview, they are given 'what-if' scenarios along with typical interview questions. For example, one of the scenarios might be, "what would you do if your friends were making a bad decision on a Friday night?" They are also assessed on their conducting and their musicianship as a whole.

"The staff looks for students who step up and take leadership roles without being asked," states Mr. Wilga, director of bands, "We have a very long process so we can make sure we're selecting a good person to be the face of the marching band."

While most marching band members practice for six hours a week, Caitlyn and Allison, along with the three other drum majors, put in an extra two hours per week, helping to get the band ready to rehearse.

Besides the extra hours, the drum major's responsibilities include: conducting, taking attendance, catching up anyone who was absent, and answering any questions from students who need help. Overall, they are in charge of making sure everything is running smoothly. All these responsibilities might turn some people away, but not Caitlyn and Allison.

"I wanted to contribute as much as possible to the band," said Allison. "It does get stressful, but in the end it's worth it."

As the seniors get ready for school at the University of Iowa, they consider college marching band. While in high school, the marching band takes about a month to learn a show, college marching bands typically spend a lot less time learning multiple different shows.

"I thought about trying it out, but I wanted to see how my first year goes without any added stress," said Caitlyn.