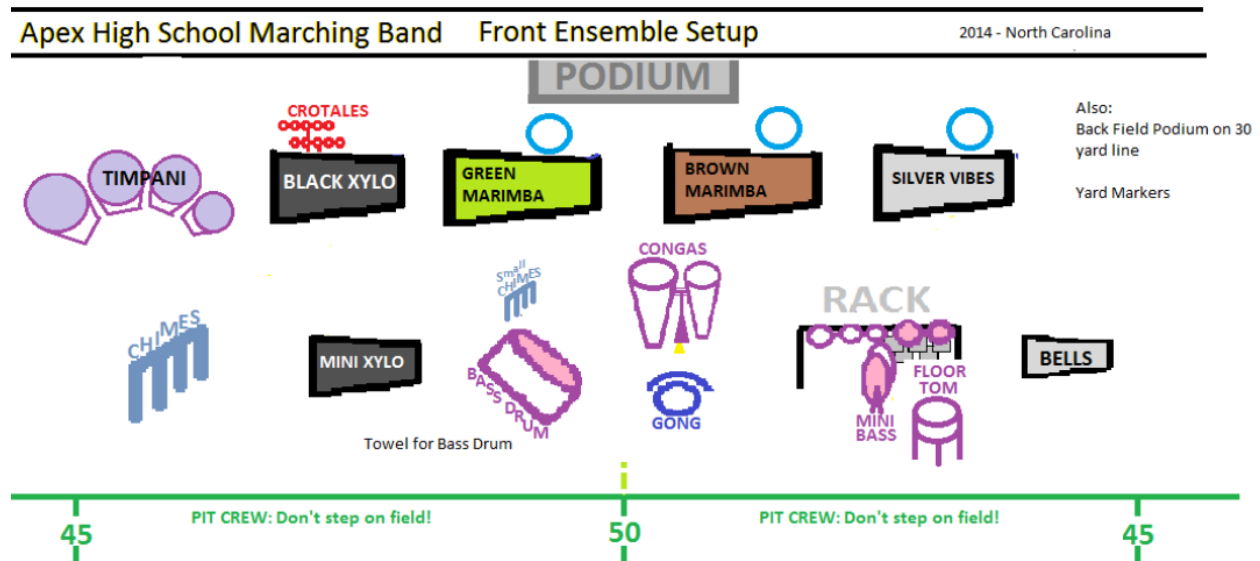


What is the Pit Crew?

The “Pit” (aka Front Ensemble) is comprised of the stationary percussion instruments positioned along the front sidelines. These instruments include several types of large xylophones, bass drum, electric piano, and some misc. cymbals and other hand-held percussion instruments. All items either have wheels or are light enough to be carried.

The Pit Crew is a group responsible for getting the pit instruments and drum major podium from the band room, to the performance venue, and back to the band room. Generally, 6-9 pit crew members are needed for each football game or band competition.

Here is a sketch of a typical pit instrument arrangement:



Home Football Games

The band performs the field show at all home football games. The show will either be performed at halftime. For some games, the band is unable to play during halftime due to other ceremonies (i.e. ring presentation of state sport champions, etc. In those cases, the band will typically play a free “parent performance” on another field at the school prior to the game.

Pit Crew Member general tasks for football games are described below:

Performance at Half-Time

Gather near the band room at call time

Approximately an hour before the game, move pit instruments from band room to the running track near the section where the band will be seated. The drum major podium is positioned on the 50-yard line for pregame (i.e. national anthem) performance. The pit does not play for pregame

Pit Crew members must leave the stadium after taking the instruments and podium to the field. The ticket booth is then opened for the game. Cost of ticket is approximately \$7.

AHS Marching Band Pit Crew Description and Responsibilities

After the National Anthem is played by the band, the drum major podium is moved to the side near pit instruments.

At the 2:00 mark of the 2nd quarter, Pit Crew gathers near the pit instruments.

At the conclusion of the 2nd quarter, the pit crew moves the pit instruments to the field for halftime performance. Pit students typically assist.

After halftime, the pit instruments and podium are returned to the band room. Band students remain at the game until it is over.

Parent Performance

Some home games involve various half-time ceremonies which do not allow the band sufficient time to perform the show during halftime. For these game nights, the band may play a "Parent Performance" about an hour before the game somewhere on the high school campus. This performance is free and open to the public.

General Pit Crew tasks for these nights are:

Gather near the band room at call time.

Transport pit instruments and podium to the parent performance venue and arrange on the field ready to perform.

Following the parent performance, transport the pit instruments to the band room.

Transport podium to football field for pregame.

After pregame, transport podium back to band room.

Band Competitions

Band competitions are the reason why we do what we do. The Pit Crew gets to be right down on the sidelines while the students are performing. It is a really nice experience to be right out there helping to set up and look at the determination on the kids' faces. The days are long, but gratifying.

The pit instruments are transported via a 26-ft Penske truck with a hydraulic lift gate. The band usually runs through the show prior to loading up and departing for the competition venue. This gets the students focused, and helps us to remember all the stuff. (If we get it to the practice field, chances are we will remember to pack it on the truck and not forget anything!)

Here is a typical competition pit crew task list:

Gather at the school at call time. Penske truck will be onsite at the school at call time.

Transport the pit instruments and podium to the practice field at AHS.

Load pit equipment on Penske truck. NOTE: Pit Crew members are asked to be safety-minded while loading and unloading the truck. The lift gate could cause injury to fingers, knees, and feet.

Travel to competition venue. Pending bus seat availability, pit crew members may be able to ride the buses to the competition. Optionally some pit crew members may car pool.

AHS Marching Band Pit Crew Description and Responsibilities

Upon arrival at competition venue, unload the pit truck.

Transport the pit instruments to warm-up area. The host school typically provides trailers to help move the equipment. Pit Crew members may ride in the trailers along with the equipment. NOTE: AHS band students are not permitted to ride in the trailers for safety reasons.

Following warm-ups, reload the instruments on the trailers and move to the competition field.

Competition Rules involving Pit Crew:

The band (including Pit Crew) is subject to certain rules as a part of the competitive performance. There is typically a time limit for the performance which begins when the first person (student, director, or pit crew member) steps "in bounds" on the football field, and ends when the last person steps off the field at the conclusion of the performance.

So, time is of the essence when setting up the equipment, and care should be taken not to be the first person to step over the sideline (because the clock will start) unless Mr. Jarvis says it is OK to do so.

The pit instruments are set up for competitive performance.

Following the performance, the Pit Crew reloads the trailers and transports the instruments to the Penske trucks.

Load pit instruments on Pit Truck.

Following the competition, return to AHS and put instruments back in band room.

Go home and go to bed!!