

## **Drill and Ceremony Instruction Guide for Graduation**

### **Objective:**

To ensure the BLET class is proficient in basic drill and ceremony movements for a polished and professional graduation presentation.

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## **I. Leadership and Preparation**

### **1. Establish Authority:**

- Be confident and clear when giving commands. Your presence and voice need to demonstrate control and professionalism. Set the tone from the first drill practice.
- Ensure everyone understands that you are leading the practice, but also be approachable for questions and guidance.

### **2. Set Clear Expectations:**

- Communicate the standards early on: precision, timing, and respect for the ceremony.
- Set practice schedules and hold the class accountable for attending and participating fully.

### **3. Build Team Cohesion:**

- Drill and ceremony is all about moving as one unit. Encourage teamwork and cooperation.
  - Identify any weak points in the group's coordination early and address them through repetition and encouragement.
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## **II. Key Movements for Graduation**

### **1. Position of Attention:**

- Feet at a 45-degree angle.
- Hands closed and pinned along the seam of the trousers.
- Chin up, looking straight ahead, and body completely still.
- Command: "Class, Attention!"

### **2. Parade Rest:**

- Feet shoulder-width apart, hands clasped behind the back (right hand over left).
- Command: "Parade, Rest!"

### **3. Facing Movements:**

#### **○ Left Face/Right Face:**

- Execute a 90-degree turn, pivoting on the ball of one foot while keeping the body straight. The key is balance and clean movement.
- Command: "Left (or Right), Face!"

#### **○ About Face:**

- Pivot 180 degrees on the ball of one foot, completing the turn smoothly and in place.
- Command: "About, Face!"

#### 4. **Marching Movements:**

- **Forward March:**
    - Step off with the left foot, swinging arms naturally. Each step should be 30 inches.
    - Command: "For-ward, March!"
  - **Halt:**
    - On the command "Halt," take two more steps and then bring the feet together to stop.
    - Command: "Class, Halt!"
  - **Change Step March (if needed):**
    - On "Change Step, March!" take a half-step with the left foot and then step forward with the right foot to correct timing. This is used to maintain synchronization if the group gets off-step.
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### III. Practice Plan and Breakdown

1. **Day 1: Basics and Formations**
    - Begin with the basic standing movements: Attention, Parade Rest, and Facing Movements.
    - Ensure every individual is performing the movements crisply and correctly. Offer feedback but focus on group cohesion over perfection in individuals.
  2. **Day 2: Marching Practice**
    - Practice Forward March and Halting. The aim is to keep everyone in step with the same cadence.
    - Use the class president or another designated leader to call cadence for the march: "Left, right, left, right."
  3. **Day 3: Putting It All Together**
    - Run through a full sequence: Starting at Attention, moving into Parade Rest, then practicing Marching and Halts.
    - Focus on transitions between movements. Practice entering and exiting the stage for graduation.
  4. **Day 4: Drill Review & Troubleshooting**
    - Go over any areas of weakness.
    - Ensure the class feels comfortable with the ceremony's flow. Address any concerns or confusion.
  5. **Final Day: Full Rehearsal**
    - Conduct a complete walkthrough of the graduation drill, from the opening to the final movements.
    - Encourage the class to think of the event as if it's the real ceremony.
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### IV. Tips for Effective Command

1. **Voice Control:**

- Use a strong, clear voice when giving commands. Your tone should be sharp and confident.
  - Practice giving commands from the diaphragm so that your voice carries across the room or outdoor area.
2. **Maintain Discipline:**
- Expect professionalism from everyone during drill practice. The group must treat the time as seriously as they will the actual graduation.
  - Keep the pace and energy up. If the group gets sloppy or tired, take a short break, then return to the task with focus.
3. **Lead by Example:**
- Demonstrate the movements yourself if someone needs guidance.
  - Always stay composed, even if the group struggles. Encourage persistence and improvement with each practice.
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## V. Final Thoughts

The key to a successful drill and ceremony is teamwork and practice. Remind the class that they're representing themselves, each other, and the program during graduation. By following the guide, staying disciplined, and working together, the class will be ready to put on a professional and impressive ceremony.