

GOLDEN EAGLE MARCHING BAND

NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2024

WELCOME!

There is always an anticipation that builds toward the end of the academic year, and then, before you know it, everyone goes their separate ways and campus is empty. This time for rest and renewal is important, and I hope you're enjoying it, but I eagerly await your return as it marks an exciting time for us!

Our veteran members, who possess strength and experience, add stability and depth, while new members add excitement and push each of us to greater achievement. Being a member of the Golden Eagle Marching Band is a privilege. The GEMB is one of the most visible ensembles at Tech, performing at all home football games and other events on our campus, and this year we'll be traveling to MTSU and performing in exhibition at Heritage High School (Maryville, TN).

I'm especially excited about this year's halftime show which features Chuck Mangione's *Children of Sanchez*, Arturo Sandoval's *A Mis Abuelos*, and the timeless classic *Malagueña*, written by Cuban composer Ernesto Lecuona.

Contained in this newsletter, you will find important information about the upcoming season, band camp, and much more. Some of the information is time-sensitive, so please, do not delay in responding as directed. I look forward to welcoming you to campus soon!

Very Sincerely,



Jeffrey L. Miller, Ph.D.
Director of Bands
Associate Professor of Music
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THANK YOU

I'd like to take a moment to recognize Mr. Jordan Robinson for his service to the School of Music and Tech Band program over the past three years. Jordan was an integral part of the percussion studio, teaching applied lessons, coaching ensembles, and directing the Afro Caribbean ensemble. Additionally, his leadership and passion as director of the Golden Eagle Brass is very much appreciated. We wish Jordan all the best in his new endeavors.

NEW STAFF

We're excited to announce that Dr. Michael Olsen, who has been assisting with the drumline for the last two years, will be joining our staff full-time this year.

Additionally, we are in the process of hiring another adjunct faculty for percussion. The search for this position remains active but we'll be sure to make a formal announcement once the hiring process is complete!



New Uniforms



After a nearly two-year process, our new uniforms are scheduled to arrive this summer and will be waiting for your arrival! Designing a uniform for college bands is different from a high school program in a lot of ways. Namely, we have university brand standards we must follow and as such the look of the uniform needs to be representative of those standards.

Returning members will notice similarities to the previous uniforms—this is intentional. New updates include:

- Several elements of white to provide a pop of color and to break up the solid purple and gold colors. This really helps bring the uniform to life! These can be seen on the chest of the jacket (wraps around the back too), the gauntlets, and the plume.
- The prominent positioning of the eagle logo in the center of the chest.
- Inside the arms and legs are snaps that will allow members to personalize the fit of their uniform.
- The stitching on the shako is the School of Music seal.
- The fabric used to construct the uniforms is slightly lighter than the previous uniforms.

We are proud to continue our partnership with DeMoulin Bros. for our uniform needs.

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2024 GEMB PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

(This schedule may be subject to change – add dates to your calendar now and read the notes below)

Date	Event/Opponent	Kick-off Time	Special Information
Saturday, Aug. 31	Football at MTSU	6:00 p.m.	Travel to MTSU
Saturday, Sept. 21	Football vs. Tennessee State	1:30 p.m.	Family Weekend
Saturday, Oct. 5	Football vs. SC State	1:30 p.m.	
Saturday, Oct. 19	Exhibition at Volunteer Classic	Reserve all day	Travel to Heritage HS
Saturday, Oct. 26	Football vs. Charleston Southern	1:30 p.m.	Band Day
Saturday, Nov. 2	Football vs. Lindenwood	1:30 p.m.	Homecoming
Saturday, Nov. 23	Football vs. Eastern Illinois	12:00 p.m.	Senior Day

Note: Kick-off times may change (for many reasons). Reserve the entire game day on your calendar.

Note: Rehearsals may be held on Saturday mornings before any home football game. Call times TBA.

Note: Homecoming will be an all-day event (including the annual parade).

Note: If the football team qualifies for post-season play (i.e., playoff/championship/bowl game), members are expected to be available. This means November 23 may not be your last required football performance.

2024 GEMB STUDENT STAFF

We have selected an excellent team of student leaders for the 2024 season. These dedicated individuals will work hard to ensure that everyone has a safe, productive, and enjoyable season.

Instructional Staff

Black Jacket - Josiah Nodurft
 Head Drum Major - Merrell Burroughs
 Asst. Drum Major - Kris Burke
 Asst. Drum Major - Jacob Starker
 Asst. Drum Major - Garrett Krawczyk
 Flute Section Leader - Lelia Mollohan
 Clarinet Section Leader - Manny Perez
 Saxophone Co-Section Leader - Jacob Cronan
 Saxophone Co-Section Leader - Stephen Davis
 Mellophone Section Leader - Walker Andrews
 Trumpet Co-Section Leader - Sam Hood
 Trumpet Co-Section Leader - Thomas Ward
 Trombone Section Leader - Scott Johnson
 Euphonium Section Leader - Lucas Johnson
 Tuba Section Leader - Cody Wade
 Drumline Section Leader - Austin Eldridge
 Front Ensemble Section Leader - Wesley Gaines
 Color Guard Captain - Ally Cowell

Operations Staff

Librarian - Maddux Fleming
 Librarian - Colton McManus
 Manager - Caleb Brown
 Manager - Hannah Burroughs
 Manager - Garren Norwood
 Manager - Daniel Rehberg
 Media Coordinator - Jacob Giddings
 Media Coordinator - Jack Lathrop

SUPER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. Every member of The Golden Eagle Marching Band (new and returning) is responsible for submitting the online Drill Spot Reservation Form. This is a student information form we use, in addition to your class registration, to assign drill spots to each member of the marching band.
 - To complete the online form, click this link: [Drill Spot Reservation Form](#); carefully enter the requested information and click “submit.” What you type goes directly into our database, so please type carefully. We must have this information to prepare for camp and our fall season. **Submission must be received no later than Friday, July 26, 2024.**
2. In addition to submitting the Drill Spot Reservation Form, all band members must register for the marching band class. Most students typically enroll for 1 credit (MUS1033-001; CRN: 81878), but there is also a zero-credit section (MUS1033-002; CRN: 81879), and a 2-credit section (MUS1033-003; CRN: 81880). Freshmen and transfer students can register during your SOAR session.
3. Weekly marching band practice is scheduled on M/W/F from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Attendance is required of all members.
4. All wind and percussion members will need one (1) pair of black, matte finish (not glossy) marching shoes. Woodwind and brass members will also need two (2) pairs of black, long wrist marching gloves. All color guard members will need one (1) pair of black relevé shoes, and one (1) pair of fingerless guard gloves (tan). **If you already own these items and they are in good condition you do not need to order more.**
 - We have worked with the DeMoulin to create an online store where you can purchase these items directly: <https://goldeneaglemb.itemorder.com/shop/home/>.
 - Color guard members should wait until audition results are announced before purchasing these uniform accessories.
 - All purchases must be paid for with a credit or debit card at the time of the order. Please note that the price shown includes shipping.
 - Your order will ship directly to the university and will be distributed during camp.
 - Orders may be placed now until Friday, July 26 (11:59 p.m.). Orders received after this time cannot be guaranteed to arrive on time and will not qualify for the group shipping rate.
 - You will need these items for our first performance on Monday, August 19. Place your orders now!

MEAL PLAN INFORMATION

Band members who have purchased meal plans may begin using them starting at breakfast on **Thursday, August 15**. Prior to August 15, dining services will offer a discounted rate of \$8.75 per meal (breakfast, lunch, and dinner). All band members are responsible for all meals during band camp. For more information about campus dining: <https://www.tntech.edu/aux/dining/index.php>

RESIDENCE HALL INFORMATION

All band members who will be living in residence halls during the 2024-2025 academic year will be allowed to move into their rooms when they report for band camp. Additional details will be sent later this summer, but in the meantime, please plan as follows:

Sunday, August 11 between 1-3 p.m.

All Percussion (Drumline and Front Ensemble), Color Guard, Student Leadership Staff

Monday, August 12 between 5-7 p.m.

All other band members

The University Band Office will provide Residential Life with the names of band members for early move-in.

Additionally, we pay a fee per student per day for early arrival, so we cannot honor requests to move in on different days than those assigned above. Your understanding is appreciated.

Important Notice: band members living in campus housing must have all required immunizations completed and documented with [Health Services](#) prior to their arrival. Band members not in compliance with this request will not be allowed to stay in campus housing until this is resolved.

WHAT NEW MEMBERS CAN EXPECT

New members are sometimes apprehensive about what to expect from the university marching band experience. Here's a few things you can expect!

- The biggest difference between high school and university marching bands is the absence of a competition circuit. University bands work very hard to produce superior shows, but the overall focus is contributing to and enhancing the game-day experience. This includes performances in parades, at tailgate events, in the stands, and the pregame and halftime show.
- University band rehearsals are often shorter and fewer in number. Older students can learn new concepts and skills more quickly, so rehearsals are fast-paced, efficient, and highly productive.
- The Golden Eagle Marching Band performs one halftime show for the season. This allows us to focus on performing drill and music that is high-quality and fun!
- Your Student Staff and returning members are wonderful people. They have worked hard to make the Golden Eagle Marching Band a great success. Follow their example and listen to their instructions and you'll have a great experience.

BAND CAMP ESSENTIALS

Members should have the following items for band camp and the upcoming season:

- Personal water cooler or hydration backpack (i.e. Coleman Cooler or Camelbak)
- Athletic shoes for marching rehearsals (no sandals or flip flops)
- Sunglasses
- Ball cap or wide-brimmed hat
- Khakis shorts (in good condition—no tears or rips)—khakis shorts serve as an alternate uniform for performances.
- Sunscreen and bug repellent
- Comfortable clothes for outdoor rehearsals
- Alarm clock
- Any medication you may need
- Money

BANDS AT TECH

In addition to the Golden Eagle Marching Band, the School of Music at Tennessee Tech offers a robust selection of ensembles in which all Tech students may participate. Most ensembles require an audition or permission from the instructor. Please contact the ensemble director and visit our [website](#) for more details.

Ensemble Director

Dr. Jeffrey Miller

Ensembles

Golden Eagle Marching Band
Golden Eagle Brass (pep band)
Chamber Winds
Symphony Band
Concert Band

Office Phone

(931) 372-6559

Email Address

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Prof. Chris McCormick

Jazz Ensembles

(931) 372-6182

cmccormick@tntech.edu

STAY INFORMED & SOCIAL

Your Tech email address will be the primary way information is communicated to you throughout the season. We also encourage you to join, follow, and like us using the following:



BAND APP — We know that email isn't always the most efficient way to communicate, especially when last-minute changes arise. As such, we ask all band members to download the Band app (good for Android and Apple devices). Open this invite link on your iPhone, Android, or desktop: <https://band.us/n/aca01h7Gcm3v>. Please use your legal first and last name when registering.



Follow us on Instagram @tntechbands



Like us on Facebook @TennesseeTechBands

AUDITIONS

All members of the Golden Eagle Marching Band are required to perform an audition.

- **All Percussion** (Drumline & Front Ensemble) – Due to the large number of expected percussionists, we will be implementing a prescreening audition process this year. If you have not received audition materials, please contact Jayce Clemons (jclemons@tntech.edu).
- **Color Guard** – Auditions for this year’s color guard will take place on campus on Saturday, June 8. If you are interested in auditioning for the color guard but missed the sign-up deadline, please contact Dr. Miller immediately.
- **Woodwinds & Brass** – All woodwinds and brass will complete a part-placement audition on the first full day of band camp. These materials will be sent via email in July.

☑ SUCCESS CHECKLIST ☑

- Complete the [Drill Spot Reservation Form](#). Be sure to click the “submit” button once you’ve carefully entered your information. This must be completed by Friday, July 26.
- Register for the marching band class.
- Be sure your instrument is in good working order and you have plenty of reeds, valve oil, etc. Marching-specific instruments (mellophone, euphonium, sousaphone, percussion) will be provided, all others must be brought by the student. Color guard equipment will be provided.
- Put all event dates on your calendar. Stay tuned for any changes.
- Bring all items on the Band Camp Essentials list.
- Order shoes and gloves (if necessary) by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, July 26:
<https://goldeneaglemb.itemorder.com/shop/home/>.
- Bring extra cash so you can go have a donut (at Ralph’s) or a meal with some of your new friends—you’ll meet lots of them and they’re great people!
- Prepare your audition materials to the best of your ability.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

Feel free to contact Dr. Miller in his office at (931) 372-6559 or by email at jlmliller@tntech.edu.