



2025 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

WELCOME!

We're so glad you've chosen to be part of the band program at Tennessee Tech! As a member of the Golden Eagle Marching Band, you join a long line of musicians who continue the TTU Bands tradition of excellence. Through the work of thousands of students like you, and band directors Col. Maurice Haste, WJ Julian, Wayne Pegram, Joseph Hermann, Eric L. Harris, and myself, Tech Bands are considered among the finest in the nation.

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. It is important to remember that legacies are built over decades and can be dismantled in only a short time. Your total commitment to the program is essential for our continued success.

I'm especially excited about this year's halftime show entitled **DIVAS!** which features the iconic music of celebrated artists Beyoncé, Chappell Roan, and Donna Summer! This is sure to be a crowd-pleaser!

Contained in this newsletter you will find important information about band camp, the upcoming season, and much more. Some of the information is time-sensitive, so please, do not delay in responding as directed. Welcome to the Golden Eagle Marching Band and congratulations on becoming part of our tradition of excellence!

Jeffrey L. Miller, Ph.D.

Director of Bands

Associate Professor of Music

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UDB APP

Last year, we began using the Ultimate Drill Book (UDB) app to help with drill setting. Due to the financial support of Dr. Jennifer Shank, Dean of the College of Fine Arts, we will continue to utilize this application in rehearsals. For those who may not be familiar with it, The UDB app modernizes marching band by putting technology directly into the hands of the user. Users can see formations in real time, hear music synced with the drill maneuvers, and receive updates to drill quickly. The use of this app increases the efficiency of rehearsals as well as eliminates paper copies of drill charts/coordinates, which is costly to our budget. Further, it infuses technology into the learning process. All that's needed is a personal device (cell phone or tablet).

To learn more about the app, you're encouraged to visit:
<https://www.ultimatedrillbook.com/udbapp/>.

Summer Uniform

Due to the ongoing renovation of Tucker Stadium, all games this season kick-off in the early afternoon—the hottest time of the day. As such, we will be implementing a summer uniform that will be worn when temperatures make it unsafe to wear the full uniform. The summer uniform will be comprised of the game day ball cap, band t-shirt, and a pair of black athletic shorts that will be provided to all members. Members will enter their desired size into the Drill Spot Reservation Form (more about this on page 3).

Our new uniforms—which we debuted last fall—look great, but the safety of our members must be the priority.

2025 FOOTBALL 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. 30	Football vs. Cumberland	1:30 p.m.	
Saturday, Sept. 6	Football vs. UT–Chattanooga	1:30 p.m.	Running of the Freshmen
Saturday, Sept. 13	Football vs. Davidson	1:30 p.m.	Family Wknd/Band Day
Saturday, Oct. 4	Football vs. Western Illinois	1:30 p.m.	
Saturday, Oct. 25	Football vs. Southeast Missouri	1:30 p.m.	
Saturday, Nov. 1	Football vs. Gardner Webb	1:30 p.m.	Homecoming
Saturday, Nov. 22	Football vs. UT–Martin	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), members are expected to be available. **This means November 22 may not be your last required football performance.**

2025 GEMB STUDENT STAFF

We have selected an excellent team of student leaders for the 2025 season. These dedicated individuals will work hard to ensure that everyone has a safe, productive, and enjoyable season.

Instructional Staff

Black Jacket – Thomas Ward
 Head Drum Major – Kris Burke
 Asst. Drum Major – Hannah Burroughs
 Asst. Drum Major – Xavier Fowler
 Flute Section Leader – Jake McAfee
 Clarinet Section Leader – Lily Gravley
 Alto Sax Section Leader – Colton McManus
 Tenor Sax/Low Reeds Section Leader – Jacob Cronan
 Mellophone Section Leader – Drew Damin
 Trumpet Section Leader – Maddux Fleming
 Trumpet Asst. Section Leader – Eric Hickman
 Trombone Section Leader – Scott Johnson
 Euphonium Section Leader – Hayden Powell
 Tuba Section Leader – David Sigler
 Drumline Section Leader – Sarah Borchardt
 Front Ensemble Section Leader – Robert Eddington
 Color Guard Captain – Lexie Smith

Operations Staff

Librarian – Sarah Eakin
 Librarian – Lindsay Linville
 Head Manager – Caleb Brown
 Asst. Manager – Isabelle Cox
 Asst. Manager – Flint Morey
 Asst. Manager – Garren Norwood
 Media Coordinator – TBD

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 and prepare for the upcoming season.
 - 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. **Submissions must be received no later than Friday, July 25, 2025.**
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 one-credit (MUS1033-001; CRN: 81569), but there is also a zero-credit section (MUS1033-002; CRN: 81570). 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. Color guard members will need one (1) pair of tan dance shoes, and may wish to purchase 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 DeMoulin to create an online store where you can purchase your shoes and gloves: <https://golden-eaglmarchingband25.itemorder.com/shop/home/>
 - All purchases made through the DeMoulin online store 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 25 (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 uniform items for our first performance on Tuesday, 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 14**. Prior to August 14, dining services will offer discounted rates: \$9.25 for breakfast and \$10.75 for lunch and dinner in the cafeteria. 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 2025-2026 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 10 between 1-3 p.m.

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

Monday, August 11 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 may 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
- Sunscreen and bug repellent
- Comfortable clothes for outdoor rehearsals
- Alarm clock
- Any medication you may need
- Money

If you require a lyre to hold your music flip folder, you will need to provide your own.

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

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Prof. Chris McCormick Jazz Ensembles

(931) 372-6182

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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/afa5b1C2e2L14>. Please use your 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.

- **Percussion** (Drumline & Front Ensemble) – Due to the large number of expected percussionists, all prospective new members must complete a pre-screening audition. Returning members are not required to complete the pre-screening audition. If you have not received the audition materials, please contact Jayce Clemons (jclemons@tntech.edu).
- **Color Guard** – Auditions for this year's color guard took place on campus on Saturday, June 14. If you are interested in auditioning for the color guard but missed the audition, 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 mid-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 received by Friday, July 25.
- ☐ 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).
- ☐ 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 jlmiller@tntech.edu.





Band Camp Schedule • Fall 2025

Sunday, August 10

1:00–3:00 p.m.	Housing Check-in for Student Staff, Color Guard, and Percussion Living on Campus
1:00–2:00 p.m.	Band Librarians meet with Dr. Miller (library)
2:00–3:00 p.m.	Band Managers meet with Dr. Miller (equipment room)
3:00–4:00 p.m.	Black Jacket and Drum Majors meet with Dr. Miller (faculty mail room)
6:00–8:00 p.m.	Student Staff Meeting (BFA 374)

Monday, August 11

8:30 a.m.	All Percussion Meet in Wattenbarger Auditorium
9:00–5:00 p.m.	All Percussion & Color Guard in Rehearsal
9:00–12:00 p.m.	Student Staff Meeting (BFA 374)
1:30–TBD p.m.	Student Staff Work
5:00–7:00 p.m.	Housing Check-in for All Remaining Band Members Living On Campus

Tuesday, August 12

8:00 a.m.	Uniform Fitting for All Percussion
9:00–12:00 p.m.	All Percussion & Color Guard in Rehearsal
9:00 a.m.	4+ year members check-in (BFA Lobby)
9:30 a.m.	3 rd year members check-in (BFA Lobby)
10:00 a.m.	2 nd year members check-in (BFA Lobby)
10:30 a.m.	1 st year members check-in (BFA Lobby)
12:00–1:30 p.m.	Lunch Break
1:30–3:00 p.m.	GEMB Full Band Orientation Meeting (Wattenbarger Auditorium)
3:00–5:00 p.m.	All Percussion & Color Guard in Rehearsal
	Part Placement Auditions for Winds
5:00–7:00 p.m.	Dinner Break
7:00–9:00 p.m.	Music Rehearsal for Winds (Wattenbarger Auditorium)
	All Percussion & Color Guard in Rehearsal

Uniform Fitting & Instruments

4+ year members will be fit for a uniform following check-in.

Anyone needing a school-owned instrument will report to the equipment room following their check-in to receive their instrument.

Part-Placement Audition Locations

Flute (BFA 209)
 Clarinet (BFA 212)
 Saxophones (BFA 210)
 Mellophone (BFA 216)
 Trumpet (BFA 215)
 Trombone (BFA 305)
 Euphonium & Tuba (BFA 218)

Wednesday, August 13

9:00–11:30 a.m.	Marching Rehearsal for Winds & Battery (Walton Park) Front Ensemble & Color Guard in Rehearsal
11:30 a.m.	Full Band Activity (Walton Park)
12:00–1:30 p.m.	Lunch Break
1:30–4:00 p.m.	All Percussion & Color Guard in Rehearsal
1:30–2:45 p.m.	Winds in Sectionals
3:00–4:30 p.m.	Music Rehearsal for Winds (Wattenbarger Auditorium)
4:30–6:00 p.m.	Dinner Break
6:00–8:30 p.m.	Marching Rehearsal for Winds & Battery (Walton Park) Front Ensemble & Color Guard in Rehearsal

Uniform Fitting

2nd year members needing fit will do so during sectional time.

Thursday, August 14

9:00–11:30 a.m.	Marching Rehearsal for Winds & Battery (Walton Park) Front Ensemble & Color Guard in Rehearsal
11:30 a.m.	Full Band Activity (Walton Park)
12:00–1:30 p.m.	Lunch Break
1:30–4:30 p.m.	Front Ensemble & Color Guard in Rehearsal
1:30–3:00 p.m.	Battery & Winds in Sectionals
3:00–4:30 p.m.	Music Rehearsal for Winds & Battery (Wattenbarger Auditorium)
4:30–6:00 p.m.	Dinner Break
6:00–8:30 p.m.	Marching Rehearsal for Winds & Battery (Walton Park) Front Ensemble & Color Guard in Rehearsal

Uniform Fitting

1st year members will be fit by section during music rehearsal.

Friday, August 15

9:00–11:30 a.m.	Marching Rehearsal for Winds, Battery & Color Guard (Walton Park) Front Ensemble in Rehearsal
11:30 a.m.	Full Band Activity (Walton Park)
12:00–1:30 p.m.	Lunch Break
1:30–4:30 p.m.	Front Ensemble & Color Guard in Rehearsal
1:30–3:00 p.m.	Battery in Rehearsal Winds in Rehearsal (Wattenbarger Auditorium)
3:00–4:30 p.m.	Music Rehearsal for Winds & Battery (Wattenbarger Auditorium)
4:30 p.m.	Dismiss—Enjoy the Evening Off!

Uniform Fitting

1st year members will be fit by section during music rehearsal.

Note: Anyone still needing to be fit will do so immediately following dismissal at 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 16

9:00–11:30 a.m.	Marching Rehearsal for Winds, Battery & Color Guard (Walton Park) Front Ensemble in Rehearsal
11:30 a.m.	Full Band Activity (Walton Park)
12:00–1:30 p.m.	Lunch Break
1:30–4:30 p.m.	Front Ensemble & Color Guard in Rehearsal

Saturday, August 16 (continued)

3:00–4:30 p.m.	Music Rehearsal for Winds & Battery (Wattenbarger Auditorium)
4:30–6:00 p.m.	Dinner Break
6:00–8:30 p.m.	Full Band Rehearsal (Walton Park)

Sunday, August 17

	Morning Off!
1:30–4:30 p.m.	Front Ensemble & Color Guard in Rehearsal
1:30–3:00 p.m.	Battery in Rehearsal
	Winds in Rehearsal (Wattenbarger Auditorium)
3:00–4:30 p.m.	Music Rehearsal for Winds & Battery (Wattenbarger Auditorium)
4:30–6:00 p.m.	Dinner
6:00–8:30 p.m.	Full Band Rehearsal (Walton Park)

Monday, August 18

9:00–11:30 a.m.	Marching Rehearsal for Winds, Battery & Color Guard (Walton Park)
	Front Ensemble in Rehearsal
11:30 a.m.	Full-Band Activity (Walton Park)
12:00–1:30 p.m.	Lunch Break
1:30–2:30 p.m.	Full Band <i>Tech Hymn</i> Rehearsal with Dr. Zamer
2:30–4:30 p.m.	Front Ensemble in Rehearsal
2:30–3:30 p.m.	Battery in Rehearsal
	Color Guard in Rehearsal
	Winds in Rehearsal (Wattenbarger Auditorium)
3:30–4:30 p.m.	Winds, Battery & Color Guard in Rehearsal (Wattenbarger Auditorium)
4:30–6:30 p.m.	Dinner Break
7:00–9:00 p.m.	Convocation Rehearsal with Winds, Battery & Color Guard (Hooper Eblen Center)

Tuesday, August 19

9:00–12:00 p.m.	Percussion Soliciting Sponsorships
	Morning Off for Winds & Color Guard
1:00–4:30 p.m.	Front Ensemble in Rehearsal
TBA	Winds, Battery & Color Guard
	Warm-up & Rehearsal for Convocation Performance (Wattenbarger Auditorium)
3:00 p.m.	Convocation
	Following the Convocation Performance: Group Meeting/Dismissal

Upcoming Dates

Wednesday, August 20	No Band Camp (prep for classes)
Thursday, August 21	Fall Semester Begins
Friday, August 22	Regular GEMB Rehearsals Begin (Monday/Wednesday/Friday 4:00–6:00 p.m.)
Saturday, August 23	Pep Band Performance at College Town Kickoff (Time TBA)
Saturday, August 30	First Home Football Game vs. Cumberland University (Kick-off is 1:30 p.m.)