



2026 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 **The Rhythm of America** which features iconic music of American artists Metallica, Duke Ellington, Stevie Wonder, and Earth, Wind & Fire!

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!

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Director of Bands
Associate Professor of Music
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SOCON & POST-SEASON FOOTBALL

As of July 1, 2026, Tennessee Tech Athletics will be joining the Southern Conference (SoCon). This is an exciting move to a more competitive conference, including multiple schools that are in closer proximity to Tech!

Given the recent success the Golden Eagles football team has seen, it is important to be aware of the marching band's post-season commitments. Should the football team qualify to participate in the Division 1 FCS Playoff series, the Golden Eagle Marching Band will be expected to perform in some capacity post-season. The dates of the FCS Playoffs are listed on page 2 under the 2026 Performance Schedule. **Please add these dates to your calendar now and begin discussing this with your family so there are no surprises come November.**

INTRODUCING

For the past two years, we've been fortunate to have Dr. Colton Morris serve as an adjunct faculty member in the School of Music and as instructor of the GEMB front ensemble and Golden Eagle Brass. This spring, Dr. Morris announced he would be moving to Virginia to marry his fiancée and pursue new professional endeavors. We will miss Dr. Morris but are excited to introduce Mr. Joe Frank Williams as our new front ensemble instructor.

Mr. Williams currently serves as an adjunct faculty member in the School of Music. He received the Bachelor of Music in music education from Tennessee Tech and the Master of Music in percussion performance from the University of Kentucky. In addition to teaching at Tech, he has over 15 years experience instructing middle and high school percussionists in Tennessee and Kentucky.

2026 PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

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

Date	Event	Time	Special Information
Saturday, Aug. 29	Football vs. Monmoth	6:00 p.m.	
Saturday, Sept. 5	Football at UT–Chattanooga	TBD	Travel Game
Saturday, Sept. 12	Football vs. Samford	6:00 p.m.	Family Wknd/Band Day
Saturday, Oct. 10	Football vs. Furman	1:30 p.m.	
Saturday, Oct. 17	Football vs. Eastern Kentucky	1:30 p.m.	Fall Break
Saturday, Oct. 31	BOA Regional (at Tech)	All Day	Exhibitions
Saturday, Nov. 7	Football vs. VMI	1:30 p.m.	Homecoming
Saturday, Nov. 14	Football vs. Mercer	1:30 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. Reserve the following dates: November 28 (Round 1), December 5 (Round 2), December 11-12 (Quarterfinal), December 19 (Semifinal), January 4 (Championship).

2026 GEMB STUDENT STAFF

We have selected an excellent team of student leaders for the 2026 season. These dedicated individuals will work hard to ensure that everyone has a safe, productive, and enjoyable season.

Instructional Staff

Black Jackets – Maddux Fleming & Scott Johnson
 Head Drum Major – Hannah Burroughs
 Asst. Drum Major – Zavier Fowler
 Asst. Drum Major – Danny Simmons
 Flute Section Leaders – Jake McAfee & Emma Vickers
 Clarinet Section Leader – Flint Morey
 Alto Sax Section Leader – Tucker McCormick
 Tenor Sax/Low Reeds Section Leader – Beni Minaya
 Mellophone Section Leader – Drew Damin
 Trumpet Section Leaders – Eric Hickman & Steven Lawson
 Trombone Section Leader – Elijah Liner
 Euphonium Section Leader – David Milan
 Tuba Section Leader – Isabelle Cox
 Drumline Section Leader – Clay Ridner
 Front Ensemble Section Leader – Ethan Dillehay
 Color Guard Captain – Lexie Smith

Operations Staff

Head Librarian – Sarah Eakin
 Asst. Librarian – Lindsay Linville
 Asst. Librarian – Naomi Strader
 Head Manager – Caleb Brown
 Asst. Manager – Ryan Alsup
 Asst. Manager – Karysa Brock
 Asst. Manager – Sam Swan
 Head Media Coordinator – Lucas Booth
 Asst. Media Coordinator – Gabi Gardner
 Asst. Media Coordinator – Kaliegh Putman

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 Wednesday, July 15, 2026.**
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: 81279), but there is also a zero-credit section (MUS1033-002; CRN: 81280). Most students typically enroll in the 1-credit section. 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 have the option of purchasing one (1) pair of fingerless guard gloves (tan). Shoes and other uniform accessories will be communicated by the color guard instructor. **If you already own any of 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://goldeneaglemarchingband26.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 Wednesday, July 29 (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 18. Place your orders now!

MEAL PLAN INFORMATION

Band members who have purchased meal plans may begin using them starting at breakfast on **Thursday, August 13**. Prior to August 13, dining services will offer a discounted rate of \$9.05 for breakfast, 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 2026-2027 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 9 between 1-3 p.m.

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

Monday, August 10 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 performing 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)
- A pair of **solid black** athletic-type shorts to wear under your uniform and to double as a "casual" uniform
- Sunglasses
- Ball cap or wide-brimmed hat
- Sunscreen and bug repellent
- Comfortable clothes for outdoor rehearsals
- Alarm clock
- Any medication you may need
- Money
- A cellphone or tablet to access the UDB app for drill setting

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	Ensembles	Office Phone	Email Address
Dr. Jeffrey Miller	Golden Eagle Marching Band Golden Eagle Brass (pep band) Chamber Winds Symphony Band Concert Band	(931) 372-6559	jlmler@tntech.edu
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/aca3ba00i4Yck>. 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 13. 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 (August 11). 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 Wednesday, July 15.**
- 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 (including the post-season) on your calendar. Stay tuned for any changes.
- Bring all items on the Band Camp Essentials list (page 5).
- 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 jlmliller@tntech.edu.





Tentative Band Camp Schedule • Fall 2026

Sunday, August 9

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 Jackets and Drum Majors meet with Dr. Miller (faculty mail room)
6:00–8:00 p.m.	Student Staff Meeting (BFA 374)

Monday, August 10

8:30 a.m.	All Percussion Meet (location TBD)
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 11

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 (Bryan Fine Arts Building Lobby)
9:30 a.m.	3 rd year members check-in (Bryan Fine Arts Building Lobby)
10:00 a.m.	2 nd year members check-in (Bryan Fine Arts Building Lobby)
10:30 a.m.	1 st year members check-in (Bryan Fine Arts Building Lobby)
12:00–1:30 p.m.	Lunch Break
1:30–3:00 p.m.	GEMB Full Band Orientation Meeting (Location TBD)
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 (Location TBD) 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)
- Alto Saxophones (BFA 210)
- Low Reeds [B. Cl., T. Sax, B. Sax] (BFA 223)
- Mellophone (BFA 216)
- Trumpet [new members] (BFA 215)
- Trumpet [returning members] (BFA 255)
- Trombone (BFA 305)
- Euphonium & Tuba (BFA 218)

Wednesday, August 12

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.	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 (Location TBD)
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 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
1:30–4:30 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 (Location TBD)
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 14

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 (Location TBD)
3:00–4:30 p.m.	Music Rehearsal for Winds & Battery (Location TBD)
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 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

Saturday, August 15 (continued)

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

Sunday, August 16

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

Monday, August 17

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 (Location TBD)
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 (Location TBD)
3:30–4:30 p.m.	Winds, Battery & Color Guard in Rehearsal (Location TBD)
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 18

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 (Location TBD)
3:00 p.m.	Convocation Performance
	Following the Convocation Performance: Group Meeting/Dismissal

Upcoming Dates

Wednesday, August 19	No Band Camp (prep for classes)
Thursday, August 20	Fall Semester Begins
Friday, August 21	Regular GEMB Rehearsals Begin (Monday/Wednesday/Friday 4:00–6:00 p.m.)
Saturday, August 22	Pep Band Performance at College Town Kickoff (Time TBA)
Saturday, August 29	First Home Football Game vs. Cumberland University (Kick-off is 6:00 p.m.)