

Golden Eagle Marching Band Newsletter

For Members of the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagle Marching Band – July 2020

WELCOME

Hello Everyone! I hope this message finds you safe and well. It goes without saying that the past six months have been difficult and challenging. We are all anxious to get back to “normal” and I hope a return to band will provide you with much needed fulfillment.

At this time, we believe that marching band activities for Fall 2020 will be held in some capacity. The university is planning on holding home football games and, therefore, we are making plans for the fall marching season...BUT...this season will be dramatically different from past seasons due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All potential students — new and returning — should be prepared for a very, very different season. We will be following strict university, State of Tennessee and CDC guidelines to ensure the safety and well-being of our students.

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.*** If I can be of assistance to you prior to band camp, please don't hesitate to ask. I look forward to welcoming you to campus in the near future!

Very Sincerely,



Jeffrey L. Miller, Ph.D.

Director of Bands

Assistant Professor of Music

(931) 372-6559

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INTRODUCING

We've been so fortunate to have Dr. Schirripa serve as an adjunct faculty member in the School of Music and as instructor of the GEMB's percussion and Golden Eagle Brass. Earlier this spring, Dr. Schirripa accepted a faculty position at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. We will miss him but are so excited to welcome (back) Mr. Jayce Clemons!

Jayce is an alum of Tennessee Tech, receiving a B.S. in Music Education in 2010. Following his studies at Tech, he went on to earn a teaching fellowship at the University of North Texas where he completed a M.M. in Percussion Performance. He has performed with many reputable ensembles and is the recipient of multiple awards in performance and composition.

In the marching arts, Jayce was a member of Southwind Drum and Bugle corps from 2005 to 2006 and Music City Mystique in 2006. He has also arranged for and taught at numerous schools throughout Tennessee and Texas, including serving as a private lesson instructor in McKinney and Frisco, Texas from 2012 to 2014 before focusing exclusively on instrument building and composing.



2020 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, Sept. 19	NC Central	TBA	
Saturday, Sept. 26	Eastern Kentucky	TBA	
Saturday, Oct. 10	Murray State	TBA	
Saturday, Oct. 24	TN State	TBA	
Saturday, Nov. 14	Austin Peay	TBA	Homecoming & Senior Day
TBA	Lighting of the Quad	TBA	

- 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 (possibly including the annual parade).
- Note:** In the event that the football team qualifies for post-season play (i.e., playoff/championship/bowl game), members *are expected to be available*. This means November 14 *may not* be your last required football performance.

2020 Student Leadership Staff

We have selected an excellent team of student leaders for the 2020 season. These dedicated young women and men will work hard to ensure that everyone has a safe, productive and enjoyable season.

Jaycie Clark	Drum Major
Skylar McGee	Drum Major
Luke Selby	Drum Major
James Albertson	Black Jacket
Ethan Tipton	Black Jacket
Eian Brown	Manager
James Ownby	Manager
Austin Rider	Manager
Kyla McDermott	Librarian
Addison Walden	Librarian
Joylene Wolugboms	Librarian
Calista Richlen	Section Leader – Flute/Piccolo
Kim Phillips	Section Leader – Clarinet
D.J. Roberts	Section Leader – Saxophones
Jonathan Jones	Section Leader – Mellophone
Austin Greer	Section Leader – Trumpet
Alex Kapamas	Section Leader – Trombone
Joshua Whited	Section Leader – Baritone/Euphonium
Zach Davis	Section Leader – Tuba/Sousaphone
Zakary Sells	Section Leader – Drumline
Austin Rider	Section Leader – Front Ensemble

Super-Important Reminders

- 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 should be completed no later than Saturday, August 1, 2020.**

2. In addition to submitting the Drill Spot Reservation Form, **ALL** members must register for the marching band class (MUS1033-001; CRN: 80861). Freshmen and transfer students can register during your SOAR session.
3. Weekly marching band practice is scheduled on M/W/F from 3:50-5:50 p.m. Attendance is required of all members.
4. Because of COVID-19 related concerns, the Golden Eagle Marching Band will not be wearing traditional uniforms this year. Members will wear alternative uniforms as described below. T-shirts, ball caps and sweatshirts will be provided to members at no cost. You will not need gloves or marching shoes this year.

Warm Weather: Khakis shorts, GEMB t-shirt, game day ball cap and sneakers.

Cold Weather: Blue jeans, GEMB sweatshirt, game day ball cap and sneakers.

Residence Hall & Meal Plan Information

All band members who will be living in residence halls during the 2020-2021 academic year will be allowed to move into their rooms when they report for band camp. **Specific times will be sent via email by the Residential Life office—please do not arrive at a time other than the day/time you’ve been assigned by their office.**

- All Drumline and Student Leadership Staff will be able to check-in on Sunday, August 16.
- All other band members will be able to check-in on Monday, August 17.

Students who are not members of the band will not be allowed to check into the residence halls until their regularly scheduled move-in time. The University Band Office will provide Residential Life with the names of band members for early move-in.

Students who have purchased meal plans may begin using them starting **at dinner on Wednesday, August 19**. Members will be responsible for all meals before this time. The cafeteria will be open with limited hours and services beginning on Sunday, August 16. For more information about campus dining: <https://www.tntech.edu/aux/dining/meal-plans.php>.

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, and the pregame and halftime shows.
- 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 leaders (aka “Student Leadership 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.
- Again, much about this season will be VERY different, but, with your patience, care and positive spirit, I believe it will be one you can be proud of. We can’t wait to meet you and welcome you to the GEMB family!

Band Camp Essentials

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

1. Hand sanitizer
2. Face mask/face covering (A mask will be provided by the university, but you should also bring your own)
3. Personal water cooler or hydration backpack (i.e. [Coleman Cooler](#) or [Camelbak](#))
4. Athletic shoes (no sandals)
5. Sunglasses
6. Ball cap or wide-brimmed hat
7. Khakis shorts for your alternative uniform (in good condition—no tears or rips)
8. Blue jeans for your alternative uniform (in good condition—no tears or rips)
9. Sunscreen and bug repellent
10. Comfortable clothes for outdoor rehearsals
11. Alarm clock
12. Any medication you may need

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 require an audition or permission from the instructor. Please contact the ensemble director and visit our [website](#) for more details.

Dr. Jeffrey L. Miller	Golden Eagle Marching Band Golden Eagle Brass Band (Pep Band) Symphony Band	(931) 372-6559	jlmiller@tntech.edu
Dr. Eric L. Harris	Wind Ensemble Concert Band	(931) 372-3728	eharris@tntech.edu
Dr. Chris McCormick	Jazz Ensembles	(931) 372-6182	cmccormick@tntech.edu

Success Checklist

- ☐ Complete the [Drill Spot Reservation Form](#). Be sure to click the “submit” button once you’ve carefully entered your information. **This should be completed by Saturday, August 1.**
- ☐ Register for the marching band class (MUS1033-001; CRN: 80861).
- ☐ Be sure your instrument is in good working order and you have plenty of reeds, valve oil, etc. *Large instruments including, mellophone, euphonium/baritone, sousaphone, marching battery will be provided, all others must be brought by the student.*
- ☐ Put all event dates on your calendar. Stay tuned for any changes.
- ☐ Bring all items on the Band Camp Essentials list.
- ☐ Keep an eye on your email for the Preseason Band Camp schedule so you know when to arrive.
- ☐ **Meal plans activate at dinner on Wednesday, August 19.**
- ☐ 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!
- ☐ Percussionists should have received music and warm-ups from Dr. Hill. If you have not, please contact him via email at cjhill@tntech.edu.

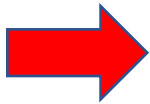
COVID-19 Information

We understand there are many questions, primarily about safety and risk mitigation, related to COVID-19. Plans at the university continue to develop on a daily basis. You are encouraged to regularly check the university [website](#) for updates.

To ensure the safety and well-being of our students, faculty and staff, all plans for the Golden Eagle Marching Band will be informed by decisions made by university officials, the state of Tennessee and the CDC. Specific guidelines and rules will be provided and discussed at band camp. In the meantime, if you have questions, you may contact Dr. Miller by email at jlmiller@tnitech.edu.

Stay Informed and Social

Your Tech email address will be the primary way information is communicated to you throughout the season. However, we also encourage you to join the "TTU Golden Eagle Marching Band" Facebook group (a private group for members only) and the Tennessee Tech University Bands Facebook page @TennesseeTechBands (a page where you, your family and friends can engage with all bands at Tech).



New this year! In an effort to communicate quickly and more efficiently, we are asking all 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/afae32j0V3c6S>.

Still Have Questions?

Feel free to contact Dr. Miller in his office at (931) 372-6559 or by email at jlmiller@tnitech.edu. If you can't reach Dr. Miller, please contact Mrs. Patti Pasquale in the University Band Office at (931) 372-3165.