MTSU Band of Blue
Handbook/Syllabus
2019!
MTSU “Band of Blue”
Marching Band

* FACULTY *

Professor Craig S. Cornish, Director of Athletic Bands;
  Director, “Band of Blue”
Dr. Dennis Hawkins, Assistant Director of Athletic Bands
  Dr. Reed Thomas, Director of Bands
Professor Lalo Davila, Director of Percussion Studies

* SUPPORT STAFF *

Jennifer Stembridge, Band Coordinator
Julie Davila, Marching Percussion Coordinator
Brian Mueller, Front Ensemble Coach
Randall Waters, Color Guard and Visual Coordinator
  Michael Turner, Color Guard Coach
LaTonya Chastain, Dance Team Coach
  Katie Stricklin, Dance Team Coach
  Niki Davis, Majorette Coach
  Kayla Jones, Majorette Coach

* GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANTS *

Jack Bounds
Wesley Dinkins
Cole Wittenburg

* DRUM MAJORS *

Bryan Sanders
Juliet Lang
McKenna Bell
  Melody Kinney

Middle Tennessee State University
Bands
MTSU P.O. Box 63
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
615.898.2993 http://www.mtsubands.com
“Band of Blue”
Band Camp Schedule

WMB = Wright Music Building (lobby)
IRH = Joseph T. Smith Instrumental Rehearsal Hall (WMB 173)
SFA = Saunders Fine Arts Building

18 August - Sunday
9:00 Percussion report to WMB
9:30 Percussion meeting - IRH
    Rehearsal until 1:00, then break for meals and to move into dorms.
3:00 Dorm move-in for all members using University Housing
6:30 Percussion rehearsal, section leader meeting. Location TBA

19 August - Monday
9:00 Trumpets, Flags, Majorettes and Dance Team - Registration (WMB)
    Percussion rehearsal starts. Get parking permits
10:00 Auditions for parts (Trumpets)
    Flags, Majorettes and Dance Team rehearsal
    Sousaphones, Baritones, Trombones, Horns - Registration (WMB)
    (after registration, check out instruments - Instrument Room)
    Get parking permits
11:00 Clarinets, Flutes, Saxes - Registration (WMB)
    (after registration, check out horns if needed - Instrument Room)
    Get parking permits
12:00 Lunch - Hamburgers and Hot Dogs courtesy of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia
    SFA front porch
    You are free until 2:00 to take care of parking permits!
2:00 Section Meetings – Locations TBA. Meal Money Distributed.
3:00 Full Band Meeting - Music Hall - Required of all members!
4:45 Section Leader and Captain Meeting following the Full Band Meeting
5:00 Dinner Break
7:00 Sectional Rehearsals – Locations TBA. Until 9:00.
    Section Leaders see Prof. C before you leave.

20 August - Tuesday
9:00 Marching Rehearsal (Greenland parking lot) Fundamentals
11:00 Full Band Rehearsal (IRH) Auxiliaries go to sectionals
12:00 LUNCH
1:30 Full Band Rehearsal (IRH) Pregame music  Auxiliaries Sectionals
3:00 Break - Music Problems – See Michele Carden Librarian!
3:15 Sectional Rehearsals – Pregame music, pep tunes
4:30 DINNER
6:30 Marching Rehearsal (Stadium) Fundamentals (until 9:30)
21 August - Wednesday
9:00 Marching Rehearsal (Greenland lot) Fundamentals
11:00 Full Band (IRH) Auxiliaries in sectionals
12:00 LUNCH
1:30 Full Band Rehearsal (IRH) Halftime Music
3:00 Sectional Rehearsals – Pregame Music, Halftime Music, Meal Money Distributed.
4:30 DINNER
6:30 Marching Rehearsal (Stadium) Pregame – Drumline marches! Until 9:30

22 August - Thursday
9:00 Marching Rehearsal (Stadium) Fundamentals, finish Pregame
11:00 Full Band Rehearsal (IRH) Olympic Fanfare and Themes
12:00 LUNCH
1:30 Full Band Rehearsal (IRH) Convocation music
3:00 Break - Music Problems – See Michele Carden
3:15 Sectionals - Convocation music, Halftime show music
4:30 DINNER
7:00 Marching Rehearsal (Stadium) Fundamentals, Halftime (until 10:00 or so)

23 August - Friday
9:00 Marching Rehearsal (Stadium or Greenland lot) Fundamentals, Halftime
11:00 Sectionals (clean up sectional area before lunch) Auxiliaries in sectionals
12:00 LUNCH
2:00 Full Band Rehearsal with Drumline – Murphy Center - Convocation
4:00 Skits (Music Hall)
5:00 DINNER
6:30 Marching Rehearsal (Stadium) Halftime (until 10:00 or so)

24 August - Saturday
9:00 Marching Rehearsal (Greenland Lot)
12:00 Clean up after band camp
3:45 Meet, get t-shirts
4:10 Warm Up in front of Saunders
4:40 Move into Murphy Center
5:00 MTSU Fall Convocation
6:00 President’s picnic - free food and fun!

26 August - Monday
First day of classes
1:00 Full Band Rehearsal **

**Always check bulletin board outside band office (WMB 155) for announcements, change of schedule, location of rehearsals, updates, etc. Furthermore, keep an eye on your MTSU email account for announcements as well.
“Band of Blue” Fall Schedule (as of 8-14-19)

August
18  Percussion report to Band Camp 9 am
    Dorm BoB members move-in 3-5 pm
    Leadership Meeting 6:30 pm
19  Full Band Camp begins!
19-24 Band Camp!* 9 am - 10 pm
24  Last Day of Band Camp! Camp ends at noon.
    Convocation Performance!* 5 pm (meet at 3:00 pm)
26  First day of school
    First rehearsal* 1:00 pm!

September
2   Labor Day - no rehearsal
7   Home Game vs. TSU*
13  Bash the Rec Rally pep gig**
14  Home Game vs. Duke* Blackout Game/Family Weekend
19  Wind Ensemble Concert
21  On the Square pep gig**
22  Volleyball Pep Band
28  Stones River Championship Exhibition!* Siegel High School
29  Volleyball Pep Band

October
5   Home Game vs. Marshall*
10  Symphonic Band/Wind Ensemble Concert
11  Depart for FAU!***
12  Away Game vs. FAU*** - pep band trip!
13  Free Day in Florida!***
14  Return Home!***
    Fall Break!
15  Fall Break!
18  Volleyball Pep Band
26  Home Game vs. FIU* Homecoming!
November
1 Volleyball Pep Band
2 Contest of Champions!*
3 Volleyball Pep Band
14 Volleyball Pep Band
16 Home Game vs. Rice* Salute To Veterans and Armed Forces!
Volleyball Pep Band
21 Symphonic Band Concert
23 Home Game vs. Old Dominion* Senior Day!
27-29 Thanksgiving Break
30 Away Game vs. WKU** - large pep band trip!

December
6 Final Exam* 12:30-2:30 - please do not schedule anything else during this time
7 Conference USA Championship Game* – depends on team success! If we win the East
Division, we are in this game, and will be traveling if the game is not at MTSU. This is
potentially a full band overnight trip depending on location.

Bowl Games associated with Conference USA – please note that we could possibly be in a
bowl that is not on this list depending on circumstances. All of these are in December:
20 Bahamas Bowl****
Frisco Bowl*
21 New Mexico Bowl*
Boca Raton Bowl*
New Orleans Bowl*
23 Gasparilla Bowl**
24 Hawaii Bowl****
26 Independence Bowl**
30 Dallas First Responders Bowl*

*Attendance required and enforced
** Attendance requested - we need everyone possible
*** Limited-size volunteer pep band - based on instrumentation and seniority
**** We will not attend
BAND CAMP INFO…

Housing
Band members living on campus in University Housing during the Fall Semester are eligible to live on campus during band camp. All members of the “Band of Blue” requiring band camp housing may check into their respective dormitories on Sunday, August 18 from 3:00 - 5:00 pm. All members wishing to check in on Sunday should make sure that they are registered in MUEN 3100 “Band of Blue.” You may not move into the residence halls early if you are not registered for the course. There is no additional charge for moving in early. In rare cases, you may be assigned a different dorm room from your assigned room for the school year.

Meals
All “Band of Blue” members will receive a meal stipend to help defray the cost of meals during band camp. The amount for 2019 is $100, distributed in two installments: $50 on August 19 and $50 on August 21. Students must be enrolled in the “Band of Blue” (MUEN 3100-001) in order to receive meal money support.
**If prior to September 9, 2019 you decide to discontinue your membership in band, you must return all meal monies received.

Parking
All students should park in Green lots during Band Camp. It is recommended that you park in the new parking garage near Wright Music Building and the Stadium. Covered parking is great! Get here early on Monday since campus construction may create parking issues that day and all week (and semester.) You will have some time on Monday to go to Parking Services to get your parking permit.

Questions?
If you have any questions, please call the band office: (615) 898.2993. You can also e-mail your questions to:
Craig Cornish – craig.cornish@mtsu.edu
Jennifer Stembridge – jen.stembridge@mtsu.edu
CLASS POLICIES...

Auditions
Membership in the “Band of Blue” is open to any university student. Each student must display good marching techniques and possess a fundamental proficiency on an instrument used in marching band. In some situations and in select sections, students may be asked to play an informal audition for membership or part selection. Dance team members, majorettes, and guard members are accepted by audition each year and must possess the following: weight in proper proportion to height, good posture and carriage, poise, good marching technique, proper sense of timing, and must perform equipment fundamentals with proficiency.

Grading Policy
All “Band of Blue” members must be enrolled in MUEN 3100 "The Band of Blue Marching Band” to perform in this ensemble and to receive any monies and travel associated with membership in the “Band of Blue”.

Grades are based upon preparation and attendance:

**Preparation** is defined by each student's ability to learn and perform music and drill in the required time allotted. The band staff and section leaders will evaluate each student’s preparation for rehearsals and performances. Additionally, preparing your uniform and instrument are the responsibility of members in the “Band of Blue”. Each member is required to have at every rehearsal and performance his or her instrument, flip folder with music, pencil, and any necessary equipment for performance.

**Attendance** is required of every “Band of Blue” student and as such, you are expected to attend every rehearsal and performance. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each rehearsal. Students arriving late to rehearsals will be counted tardy. Students whose schedule indicates a conflict with a band rehearsal must file a "conflict card" located in the band office prior to said absence. In the event you are ill or cannot attend rehearsal, you must call the band office (898.2993) no later than NOON the same day. A student that must leave rehearsal early should clear this with Prof. Cornish beforehand. A doctor’s written statement or a written statement from the Dean of Students must document absences related to illness or family emergency. The following reasons will be considered as excusable, and then ONLY after all procedures stated above have been followed:
• Illness or emergency (check in at Student Health Service and provide documentation stating you are unable to attend rehearsal or get a note from your doctor)
• Inability to be excused from a regularly scheduled university class, test, or help session (to be documented by a written statement from the professor or Dean of Students)
• Death or severe illness in your immediate family (evidence of absence to the directors before the next regularly scheduled class)
• Weddings must be pre-approved by the director well in advance of the absence.

Each unexcused absence from rehearsal will lower your grade by one (1) full letter:
  One unexcused absence = B
  Two unexcused absences = C
  Three unexcused absences = D
  Four or more unexcused absences = F

Any unexcused absence from a performance will result in failing the course.

Three late arrivals for rehearsal will constitute one unexcused absence. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in failure of the course. Upon failure, a student may not perform or travel with the “Band of Blue.” Band members are expected to perform at all scheduled events, including football games, special university events, and marching band trips as dictated by the season schedule or as announced by the Associate Director of Bands, the Director of Bands, and the Director of the School of Music. Students will not be excused from performances to attend Drum Corps winter camps unless they are alternates in the Band of Blue.  

**Should the football team be invited to an after-season bowl game, all members are expected to attend. Students that cannot attend the bowl game must make themselves alternates for the main show of the season before leaving campus the Monday night of Band Camp – August 19 - otherwise they will fail the course for not attending the bowl game.**

Students with excessive tardiness will have money deducted from their stipend as well as having their grade lowered!

For students receiving a band scholarship, any unexcused missed performance will result in the immediate cancellation of that band scholarship, with no future applications accepted. Refer to the signed contract for further obligations.
Performances
Our performance responsibility extends beyond the realm of halftime and Pregame entertainment. We are a vital force in the spirit and atmosphere of MTSU Football and the MTSU community. We not only represent the University and Murfreesboro, but also the State of Tennessee. Therefore, it is necessary for everyone to understand the role of the “Band of Blue” in all performance situations, and how important each individual’s contribution is to the success of our organization and to Middle Tennessee State University.

Instruments
The MTSU School of Music maintains a selection of musical instruments and these can be checked out as needed to those enrolled in the band program.

To obtain an instrument, the student must obtain an instrument checkout form from the Instrument Room. This form is given to the instrument room manager who will issue the equipment. Students using these instruments are held responsible for the maintenance and minor repair of equipment. Should major damage or loss occur while the instrument is checked out to a student, it should be reported immediately to the Director of Athletic Bands and/or the Assistant Director of Athletic Bands. The University will not be responsible for major damage or loss caused as a result of negligence or if said damage or loss is not reported within a reasonable period of time.

All school-owned instruments that are stored in the music building must be kept locked in a School of Music locker. To obtain a locker for your instrument, you must see Samantha Graham in the School of Music Instrument Room WMB 172. Do not leave instruments out in rooms or on top of lockers or they will be stolen, and you will pay for any stolen instrument checked out to you.

Uniforms
Uniforms will be issued during Band Camp. Specific hours for each section will be announced and posted on the band bulletin board in the School of Music. Percussionists need to bring their carrier to the fitting session. It is your responsibility to go by the uniform room (SFA 103) during posted hours to secure a uniform. Uniforms are issued for your use free of charge; however, each student will be held accountable for the replacement cost of the uniform and all associated parts if lost or damaged.

The uniform consists of several pieces, each of which is specifically checked out to you. Each member of the band will be issued the following items:

- Jacket
- Bib Trousers
- Gauntlets
- Band T-shirt
- Baseball Cap
- Uniform Bag
- White gloves
You will need to supply your own BLACK socks and BLACK marching shoes. The shoes must be black, lace-up (NO TENNIS SHOES), leather or fake leather, and have low heels. You will need shoes as soon as possible. Dinkles and Drillmasters are two good inexpensive brands.

Uniforms are stored in the uniform room and checked-out before each performance and checked back in after each performance. Prior to each performance there is a uniform inspection conducted by the drum majors and uniform coordinators. All components of your uniform must be present in order to perform.

Do not clean or wash the uniform yourself! If your uniform needs cleaning or repairing, notify one of the uniform coordinators. Uniforms will be taken to a professional cleaner periodically and as needed.

**Travel**

“Band of Blue” members are expected to perform at all home football games, MTSU special events, and marching band trips as dictated by the season schedule or as announced by the Associate Director of Bands. You are responsible for following trip schedules and taking responsibility for your luggage, instrument, and uniform. This includes loading and unloading all items from buses. While traveling, you and your roommates are responsible for any incidental room charges (i.e. movies, room service, phone calls, etc.).

You have the privilege of traveling with the “Band of Blue”, one of the premier college marching bands in the nation. As a student at Middle Tennessee State University, you are subject to all University rules governing student conduct as outlined in the Blue Raider Handbook. You will be held responsible for any destruction of property, petty larceny, or abusive language. Please remember to respect the rights of others in the group and all persons not connected with our group.

All students are expected to ride University-provided transportation. Any exceptions should be cleared with the Associate Director of Bands well in advance of the event. **Any member missing the University-provided transportation is responsible for getting to the event on time.** An unexcused absence from a performance will result in failure of the course. Upon failure, a student may not perform or travel with the “Band of Blue”.

When bus or rooming lists are posted, print **only** your name (first and last) to the list for the bus you wish to ride and room in which you would like to stay. Once bus and room lists are finalized and posted, you may not ride on a different bus nor change to another room.

Please refer to all university policies concerning the consumption of alcoholic beverages or the use of illegal drugs. Individuals in violation of these policies will be referred to the Dean of Students and local law enforcement officials.
Code of Conduct and Maintaining Image

As a member of MTSU’s “Band of Blue”, you serve as a representative of the University, the University Band program, and as a part of one of the most visible student organizations on campus. “Band of Blue” members must adhere to all policies, procedures and guidelines set forth by Middle Tennessee State University. Anytime you are preparing for or participating in a “Band of Blue” activity, the highest standards of deportment must be maintained. People will judge you, MTSU, University Bands, and the “Band of Blue” by your actions, both on and off the field. Your behavior must be exemplary and well beyond what is expected of you as a private individual. The outstanding reputation of the “Band of Blue” has taken years to build and can be destroyed by one individual and one unfortunate incident.

The “Band of Blue” has a proud tradition and reputation for excellence that is long standing. That reputation can be destroyed in a very short time through careless, reckless, or mindless acts. Because the “Band of Blue” is so highly visible, we must always be conscientious about our image. MTSU has published statements regarding race and gender equity, sexual harassment, hazing, student conduct, and substance abuse. It is the responsibility of every “Band of Blue” member to familiarize themselves with the statements made in that publication.

Specifically, we must insist upon the following:

- Consumption of alcoholic beverages or the use of illegal substances by any person while preparing for or participating in a “Band of Blue” activity will not be tolerated and is cause for dismissal from the “Band of Blue”. This includes stadiums or arenas that sell alcohol, even if you are legal age.
- The use of inappropriate, foul, or abusive language will not be tolerated.
- Participating in any activity that violates the civil rights of others, verbally, non-verbally, or in written form is cause for dismissal from the “Band of Blue”.
- Hazing in any form or fashion will not be tolerated.
- Only the band faculty or appointed individuals may represent the “Band of Blue” regarding policies, funding, perceived treatment, or any other business-related matters. Letters, telephone calls, and email messages from students and parents indicating representation of the “Band of Blue” or the band program are strongly discouraged. The band faculty and staff are continually addressing the needs of the band program. Misrepresentation or harassment from uninformed individuals can be devastating to the achievement of the goals of the program. All such concerns should be addressed to the appropriate band faculty member.
- The “Band of Blue” director must approve all section webpages, Facebook pages and t-shirts.
Students with Disabilities

Middle Tennessee State University is committed to campus access in accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Any student interested in reasonable accommodations can consult the Disability & Access Center (DAC) website and/or contact the DAC for assistance at 615-898-2783 or dacemail@mtsu.edu. Also, if you require the use of assistive technology, please make sure to download the documents in order to access the accessibility that I have built into the content for you.

Hope (Lottery) Scholarship Information

Do you have a lottery scholarship? To retain the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship eligibility, you must earn a cumulative TELS GPA of 2.75 after 24 and 48 attempted hours and a cumulative TELS GPA of 3.0 thereafter. A grade of C, D, F, FA, or I in this class may negatively impact TELS eligibility.

If you drop this class, withdraw, or if you stop attending this class you may lose eligibility for your lottery scholarship, and you may not be able to regain eligibility at a later time.

For additional Lottery rules, please refer to your Lottery Statement of Understanding form or contact your MT One Stop Enrollment Counselor.

Grade Appeals

University Policy 313, Student Grade Appeals, provides an avenue for MTSU students to appeal a final course grade in cases in which the student alleges that unethical or unprofessional actions by the instructor and/or grading inequities improperly impacted the final grade.

The True Blue Pledge

I am True Blue
As a member of this diverse community, I am a valuable contributor to its progress and success.
I am engaged in the life of this community. I am a recipient and a giver. I am a listener and a speaker. I am honest in word and deed. I am committed to reason, not violence. I am a learner now and forever. I am a BLUE RAIDER. True Blue!
Pep Bands

There are numerous pep bands performing in conjunction with the Band of Blue. On a home football game day, as many as four to five pep bands may be performing around campus. “Band of Blue” students are assigned to these bands and are expected to fulfill their duties as band members. Remember: we are a vital force in the spirit and atmosphere of MTSU Football and the MTSU community.

Additionally, there are pep bands that play for men and women's basketball games, as well as women's volleyball games. Membership in each of these bands is through auditions, which will be announced after the semester begins. Members selected for these athletic pep bands will receive an additional band stipend at the end of the season commensurate with the organization to which they are assigned. For more information, contact Dr. Hawkins (dennis.hawkins@mtsu.edu)

Wind Bands

There are two concert groups that rehearse and perform during the Fall semester, completely separate from the “Band of Blue”. Auditions for the fall semester will be held the first week of the semester. Audition music and requirements are posted online (https://www.mtsu.edu/bands). “Band of Blue” members are encouraged to continue their performance skills by enrolling in and auditioning for one of the following ensembles:

Wind Ensemble (MUEN 3120-001) T, TH 2:00 – 4:05

Conducted by Dr. Reed Thomas, The Middle Tennessee State University Wind Ensemble is the premier performing ensemble for wind, brass, and percussion students at the university. Members are selected through audition each semester and comprise the best musicians at MTSU. The ensemble explores the vast range of the wind repertoire by utilizing a flexible instrumentation approach where the repertoire dictates the number of players for each piece. The ensemble is dedicated to performing outstanding and challenging works of diverse musical styles while furthering wind music of artistic and historical significance. Performing three to five concerts each semester, they also tour extensively throughout the region. The Wind Ensemble is quickly becoming recognized as one of the outstanding university ensembles in the country and abroad. They have been invited to perform in Thailand, Korea, Japan, and several European countries. Membership is open to all MTSU students and is based upon successful audition.

Symphonic Band (MUEN 3110-001) T, TH 2:40 – 4:05

Conducted by Mr. Craig Cornish, The Middle Tennessee State University Symphonic Band has the distinction of being the band program's top symphonic ensemble. The mission of this group is to provide instrumentalists with an opportunity to demonstrate and develop the techniques and musical instincts appropriate to a symphonic setting. With an emphasis on the distinctive characteristics of the large wind and percussion ensemble, the symphonic band's repertoire is culled from the rich resources of the wind band tradition. The MTSU Symphonic Band fosters the highest performance standards while offering its members an opportunity to expand their technical, intellectual, and musical horizons. The ensemble seeks to broaden performance and pedagogical skills through the programming of exemplary wind band literature while fostering an interest in the band as an integral part of the American musical scene. Membership is open to all MTSU students and placement is based on auditions held each semester.
Expectations of the “Band of Blue”

Each member of the “Band of Blue” is expected to:

- Be treated with respect and to treat ALL others with respect.
- Follow instructions given by Directors, Drum Majors, Section and Rank Leaders.
- Be quiet and respectful during rehearsals.
- Have a positive attitude at all rehearsals and performances.
- Act and be treated like an adult.
- Use common sense.
- Have all materials, instruments and equipment (pencil, music, charts) at every rehearsal.
- Be early to rehearsals and performances so that we can start on time.
- Do not text during rehearsals. Cell phones are not to be used except as a timepiece or as a coordinate book during rehearsals
- Maintain an alcohol and drug free environment during rehearsals, performances, while wearing your uniform, and while representing the MTSU “Band of Blue”.
- Have fun, work hard, and bleed BLUE!

In the Stadium:

- No Gum on the turf
- No Chewing Tobacco
- No Smoking – MTSU is a smoke-free campus
- No Sunflower Seeds - shells get everywhere.
- Pick up after yourself - no trash left behind! Leaders should pick up after anyone/everyone. We will be charged for trash cleanup.
- Leave the front blue apron clear for the Front Ensemble and the DM Podium movers
- Do not text during rehearsals. No cell phone use!
BAND OF BLUE 2019

"TO SIRS WITH LOVE"

Featuring the music of Sir Elton John and Sir Paul McCartney

MURFREESBORO, TN
BIG, LOUD, AND FUNKY