



Sam Houston State University  
Bearkat Marching Band  
*Passion, Family, Excellence*

August 8, 2024

There are a few minor changes to this letter since the last one. All changes are highlighted in yellow.

Welcome to the 2024 Bearkat Marching Band. We are excited to have you with us in the BMB for 2024 and look forward to seeing you in August!

- **NEW STUDENTS** (woodwinds/brass/percussion/guard) check into dorms on August 15.
- **Percussion, Guard Students, and Twirlers should check with their sponsors for rehearsal dates and times.**
- **Returning brass and woodwinds** start on August 16.

Remember that there are two steps to joining the BMB, *and you must do both*:

1. Enroll in the appropriate course
2. Register for summer band through [www.shsu.edu/bmb](http://www.shsu.edu/bmb)

### **Bearkat Kickoff**

Bearkat Kickoff (BKO) is a week of orientation activities for new SHSU students. BKO is at the same time as our summer band rehearsals, but **all BMB members will participate in summer band.**

### **Summer Band**

#### New Members

- Thursday, August 15, **8:30-11:30am THIS IS A TIME CHANGE**
  - Check into your dorms. Marching band members move into their dorms the day before all the other new students arrive.
  - If you registered for summer band, no appointment is required.
  - The Residence Life office will have correct records even if you switched dorms or didn't have a dorm assignment when you registered.
- Friday, August 16, 10:00 am
  - Officially check in for BMB in the lobby of the Gaertner Performing Arts Center.
  - We will verify that you are on campus and have your correct contact information. We will also measure you for your marching uniform and issue your BMB polo.

#### Returning members

- Friday, August 16
  - 1:00 pm: All returning members officially check in for BMB in the lobby of the Gaertner Performing Arts Center

#### All Members

- Friday, August 16
  - 5:30 pm: Orientation dinner in the **WHITE** Ballroom of the Lowman Student Center.
  - You will meet and sit with your sections to begin getting acquainted.
- Saturday, August 12
  - 8:00 am: Summer Band begins!



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### **CUSA Football Schedule**

In addition to Saturday games and a high school exhibition, our CUSA football schedule includes two midweek games: Wednesday, October 16, and Tuesday, October 29. We also have a game scheduled for the Friday after Thanksgiving. Please plan accordingly. Game times are published at [www.gobearkats.com](http://www.gobearkats.com) and [www.shsu.edu/bmb](http://www.shsu.edu/bmb).

### **Parking**

Beware: YOU MUST HAVE A PARKING PASS. You will get a ticket if you do not have a parking pass – no exceptions.

### **Communication**

All official communication between members and directors/instructors should be conducted through email. However, we offer social platforms to help strengthen connections between members.

Please subscribe to these BMB social media platforms:

- The Band App: BMB 2024: <https://band.us/n/a3ac0ec94bhbb>
- Instagram: @samhoustonbmb

### **Summer Uniform**

We will wear the summer uniform for pep rallies, the homecoming parade, and football games when the temperature is too warm to wear the marching uniform.

- BMB provides the BMB polo and BMB cap
- YOU provide:
  - Khaki shorts
    - Tan khaki rather than the off-white or olive version.
    - Conservative style. NO CARGO POCKETS
    - The inseam should be 7” to 9”
    - *Khaki shorts are not required for color guard members and twirlers.*
  - Black belt
  - Black socks
  - Black marching shoes
    - Plain black marching shoes (flat finish, not shiny) from high school are okay for BMB if they are in good condition.
    - You may purchase the marching shoes for \$50 cash only directly from our vendor on Tuesday, August 20, at 1:30 p.m.

We will wear the summer uniform to the orientation dinner on Friday, August 16, to ensure everyone has what they need. We will also wear the summer uniform for the New Student Convocation performance on Sunday, August 18 and SH picture on Monday, August 19.

### **New Student Convocation on Sunday, August 18 and 19.**

We will have a pep band performing at the two indoor events convocation ceremonies on Sunday, August 18. On Monday morning, August 19, the entire band will outline a large SH formation on the intramural field near Johnson Coliseum while new students fill in the letters for a group photo.



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### **Hydration**

We require each BMB member to bring their own insulated water jug (at least ½ gallon) to each marching rehearsal. We must not share water jugs. We have learned from our ROTC medics that it takes at least three days of increased water intake to prepare for outside temperatures at this time of year. Be sure to start increasing your water intake By Monday, August 12.

### **Clothing**

Remember to bring appropriate clothing for marching rehearsals. Shorts, socks, athletic shoes, sunglasses, a hat/cap, and sunscreen are all essential items.

### **Rehearsal Sites**

- School of Music Building, 1751 Avenue I, across from the Sam Houston Parking Garage
- Pritchett Field: Avenue 0 between 17th and 19th Streets

### **Sheet Music**

Our marching music is posted under the [Sheet Music](#) tab on the BMB main page. The Alma Mater, Fight Song, Berkak Fanfare, National Anthem, and Them Basses are part of pregame, and you can access them now. *Please do not share the password with non-BMB members to protect against copyright infringement.* Password: thembasses

### **Invite Your Friends!**

If you know someone at SHSU who was a great band member in high school, please ask them to join us! If you provide us with their contact information, we can formally invite them. The social aspects of marching band membership help you make new friends and create a sense of belonging at SHSU.

### **Student Leadership**

- Our Drum Majors are Baylor McDugle, Anna Ng, and Kynnady Sparks
- Our Student Assistants are Brandon Bashaw, Steven Boone, Holly Hendrickson, Qays Syed, and Alyssa Vandyke.

I'm looking forward to seeing you in a week!

Sincerely,

Darla McBryde  
Acting Director of the Berkak Marching Band  
Assistant Director of Bands  
Sam Houston State University  
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