

August 9, 2025

## Dear BMB Members and Prospective Members!

I look forward to meeting you in just a few days! In less than three weeks, the 2025 BMB will be performing in our first game at Shell Energy Stadium on August 29<sup>th</sup>! We can't wait to get started!

If you are considering joining the BMB and you have not done so yet, come on! You still have time, and we still have room!

Please read this entire letter (even if you have read the first two letters of the summer) as details have changed!

If you have any questions, read every word on our website – [www.shsu.edu/bmb](http://www.shsu.edu/bmb), and email the appropriate faculty member listed below. We aim to help you have a smooth transition to SHSU and the BMB!

## BMB Faculty and Staff:

- Prof. Darla McBryde ([dxm121@shsu.edu](mailto:dxm121@shsu.edu)) – Acting Director of the BMB and Assistant Director of Bands
- Dr. Boyce Jeffries ([bwj009@shsu.edu](mailto:bwj009@shsu.edu)) – BMB Drumline Instructor and Lecturer of Percussion
- Mr. Tim LeBlanc ([timothyjleblanc@gmail.com](mailto:timothyjleblanc@gmail.com)) – Colorguard Instructor/Drill Designer
- Mrs. Kelley McCormick ([kelleymccormick5@gmail.com](mailto:kelleymccormick5@gmail.com)) – Twirling Instructor
- Katelyn Seymour ([kes085@shsu.edu](mailto:kes085@shsu.edu)) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Band Graduate Assistant
- Alex Mata ([ajm209@shsu.edu](mailto:ajm209@shsu.edu)) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Band Graduate Assistant
- Tanner Tyler (email coming soon) – Percussion 1<sup>st</sup> year Graduate Assistant

## Joining the BMB is a Two-Step Process:

- 1) Enroll in MUEN 1116 or 3116
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year brass, woodwind, and colorguard students should enroll in Prof. McBryde's section, MUEN 1116 01
  - b. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year percussion students should enroll in Dr. Jeffries' section, MUEN 1116 02
  - c. All 3<sup>rd</sup> year more students should enroll in Prof. McBryde's upper-level section, MUEN 3116 02
- 2) [Register for Summer Band](#) – Registering for summer band allows us to know the following about you:

- a. Your preferred name
- b. Shirt sizes
- c. Your instrument
- d. If you need early dorm access or not
- e. If you need a hotel during leadership, drumline, or colorguard camp
- f. If you need a BEAM License
- g. If you need a UDB License

### **Stay Informed:**

- Start a habit of checking your SHSU email every day.
- Join our band app (students only) - <https://band.us/n/a4afAbZ3L872p>
- Follow us on Instagram (for anyone) – samhoustonbmb

### **Leadership Meeting – August 16<sup>th</sup>:**

- Graduate Assistants, Drum Majors, Student Assistants, Visual Techs, Music Techs, Drumline Captains, and Colorguard Captains (guard and drumline as available) will meet on Saturday, 8/16/25, from 9 am to 4 pm. Lunch will be from noon-1:30pm on your own.

### **Start Dates:**

- Drumline Camp – Starts August 14<sup>th</sup>
- Colorguard Camp – Starts August 15<sup>th</sup>
- Leadership – Starts August 16<sup>th</sup>
- Brass and Woodwinds – Start August 17<sup>th</sup>

### **Early Move-Ins for Campus Housing:**

- Prof. McBryde is sending an updated housing list to ResLife on Monday, 8/11, at 8am. This list will include early move-in requests for everyone that has registered for summer band through 7:59am on 8/11.
- **If you are living in campus housing, and you have not registered for summer band, we have no way of knowing that you need to move in early. [REGISTER for SUMMER BAND ASAP.](#)**
- Every effort has been made to accommodate all known housing requests for drumline, colorguard, and leadership students.

- Sometimes this means starting your camp at The University Hotel.
- Prof. McBryde will be emailing hotel reservation confirmations to guard, percussion, and drumline students that need hotel rooms by Monday evening, 8/11.
- If you have any Campus Housing Issues, please contact Prof. McBryde ([dxm121@shsu.edu](mailto:dxm121@shsu.edu)) before calling ResLife – they are SLAMMED!
- The standard early move-in date for BMB members is August 17<sup>th</sup> from noon-3pm.
- If you are not sure what is going on with your campus housing, please ask Prof. McBryde ([dxm121@shsu.edu](mailto:dxm121@shsu.edu)) EARLY IN THE WEEK. The later you wait, the harder it is to solve a problem!

### **Plan Meals and Snacks:**

- We've got you covered with fajitas for dinner on 8/17.
- Dining halls open on 8/19 when the general student body moves into the dorms.
- Make sure you have a plan for eating breakfast, lunch, and dinner on 8/18. Check out <https://www.shsu.edu/services/auxiliary/food/> for on campus dining hours on 8/18. Note that many of the locations are not open on 8/18, but Starbucks, Pastabilities (not sure if that is a typo on the website – call ahead to check!), and the LSC P.O.D (24 hours) have availability.
- There are many walkable breakfast, lunch, and dinner options – ask an upperclassman for help!

### **BMB Summer Band Schedule:**

- [BMB Summer Band Schedule](#) - Dress up days and fun night activities have been added! This is a living document. Check back often!
- Full Band camp starts on Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, with orientation, move-ins, and our family dinner.
- Band camp ends on Friday evening, August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Agenda for Band Camp:**

- It is important that you attend every second of band camp practice. In just five days, the BMB will be able to perform the entire Pre-Game show, learn stand tunes, and have a plan mapped out for the 8/29 halftime show! While we will be spending

SOME time rehearsing fundamentals and working on our signature BMB sound, we will need to start learning shows right away this year!

### **Instruments:**

- Members of the BMB march with the following instruments:
  - Flutes
  - Clarinets
  - Alto saxophones
  - Tenor saxophones
  - Trumpets
  - Mellophones
  - Trombones
  - Baritones
  - Sousaphones
  - Battery percussion instruments
  - Flags/Rifles (as decided by Tim LeBlanc)
- The BMB provides students with the following instruments:
  - Mellophones
  - Baritones
  - Sousaphones
  - Battery percussion instruments
  - A very limited number of tenor saxes to be decided upon during summer band
  - Flags
- Students wishing to march bass clarinet or bari sax must provide their own instrument.
- The BMB loans instruments at no cost to the members, provided the instruments are returned in satisfactory condition.
- Repair costs for broken or damaged instruments will be the responsibility of the student.
- If you wish to play an instrument that we do not offer, consider exploring rental options with your local music store or check-out Facebook Marketplace.
- If you need help with instruments, email GAs, Katelyn ([kes085@shsu.edu](mailto:kes085@shsu.edu)) and Alex ([ajm209@shsu.edu](mailto:ajm209@shsu.edu)).

## Supplies Needed:

Use this week to acquire your BMB supplies!

- Insulated water jug for practices
  - BMB DOES NOT PROVIDE WATER FOR OUTDOOR REHEARSALS
- Marching shoes – You may use your black shoes from high school (they must be flat black, not shiny or patent).
- Khaki shorts – no cargo pockets
- Short black socks for summer uniform
- Long black socks for formal uniform
- Black athletic shorts to wear under formal uniform
- Black belt to wear with khaki shorts for summer uniform
- Comfortable practice clothes and shoes
- Sunscreen
- Hats/sunglasses
- We do have some flip folders for students that prefer to use paper music. However, you must provide your own lyre if needed. Since we are using BEAM, and you will access stand tunes on your phone, you may choose to purchase a phone lyre holder for your instrument like [this one](#). This is not a requirement, but you may find it helpful.
- Plan your dress up days by checking the [BMB Summer Band Schedule](#)

## BMB Practice Schedule in the Fall Semester:

Take note of our class schedule. We require students to be available for all class times.

- Monday nights from 6:30-8:45 pm at Bowers (facing visitor side in 2025 due to pressbox construction)
- Tuesday and Thursday from 4-5:45 pm at Upper Pritchett

## Music Migration:

In the fall 2025, we will no longer post our music on the band website. We will be using the BEAM app instead. In the meantime, you can still access most of our stand tunes on the band website. Here are instructions:

Step 1: This link will take you to the digital stand tunes:

[https://www.shsu.edu/academics/music/ensembles-divisions/ensemble/bands/bearkat-marching-band/sheet\\_music.html](https://www.shsu.edu/academics/music/ensembles-divisions/ensemble/bands/bearkat-marching-band/sheet_music.html)

Step 2: Select your assigned instrument part.

Step 3: Enter the PDF password.

All instrument folder passwords start with bmb and end with the instrument you play, with an added “s.” Example: bmb saxophones or bmb drum majors.

There are no numbers OR capital letters!

The folders that are not instrument specific have the password “them basses”

Examples of these are the Fight Song and Bearkat Fanfare

Step 4: Select the Digital Flip folder option – or use the PDF.

## **2025 Games:**

As you may know, Bowers, our stadium, is under construction and will not be ready for the 2025 season. Home games will be held at Shell Energy Stadium in Houston. The BMB typically performs at all home games. BMB Members are required to attend all performances.

- Friday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:30pm
- Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm (Homecoming)
- Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm
- Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at Noon (Twirler Day and Armed Forces Recognition)
- Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at Noon (Saturday after Thanksgiving – inform your families! This is a required event!)

The BMB will provide students with charter bus transportation to and from games. When possible, and after our obligations are complete, we will allow students to ride home with parents or other family. We will discuss this in advance of the 8/29 game.

### Game Tickets:

- Friends and Family may purchase tickets at <https://gobearkats.com/>.
- The BMB will be sitting in sections 201 and 240.

### Potential Post-Season Games:

- SHSU competes in Conference USA. The top two teams in Conference USA will play a championship football game on December 5, 2025, at the stadium of the No #1 ranking team. Please keep December 4-6<sup>th</sup> available.
- Conference USA is a Bowl Conference. In December 2024, SHSU competed against Georgia Southern at the New Orleans Bowl. Performing in a Bowl Game is a possibility for the 2025 season. Bowl season goes from the middle of December to the Middle of January.
- Though no one can yet predict opportunities that lie ahead, we can do our best to cheer the Bearkats on and be available if needed for post-season games.

### 2025 Exhibitions and More:

- BMB Picture Day, on campus on September 20<sup>th</sup> (7am to 11am at the latest, earlier if possible).
- UIL Area I Contest, Katy, Texas on October 25<sup>th</sup> (All Day)
- *Friends, Family, and Faculty Show* at Bowers Stadium on October 27<sup>th</sup> during our regular class time. This is the only opportunity for our Huntsville community to see our exhibition show (or any show, for that matter!).

### University Service Performances/Events:

These performances *may* include a portion or all BMB students. These events will be finalized in the syllabus.

- New Student Convocation – Thursday, August 21<sup>st</sup> (leaders and volunteers)
- SH Class Picture – Friday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> (All BMB Students)
- Family Day – Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> (Raven Ragtime, leaders and volunteers?)
- Saturday @ SAM – Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup> (only 4-6 table volunteers needed)
- Homecoming Parade – Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> (All BMB Students)
- Alumni Gala – Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup> (non-orchestra leadership and volunteers)

**First Year Students and Bearkat Kick Off Activities:**

- Students in the leadership team along with pep-band members will perform as part of the convocation band.
- First-year BMB students should participate in convocation along with every other first-year student in the university.
  - Convocation times are assigned by college. Check out this link to see when you should attend convocation and what to expect.  
<https://www.shsu.edu/dept/fye/convocation.html>
- Bearkat Kick Off, a program designed for first-year students, begins on Thursday, August 21st, and ends on Saturday, August 23rd. First-year BMB students should attend BMB practices on Thursday evening (Don't worry – you will still get to go to the Kat Karnival!), all day Friday, and join BKO on Saturday (unless auditioning for the School of Music ensembles).
- Once you register for summer band, Prof. McBryde will send your ID number to Bearkat Kick Off leaders, so they know not to expect you. If you continue to get BKO notifications in error, it is okay. Just stick with the BMB.

**Got questions? Please ask!**

We will see you soon!

**Sincerely** *and with*

**PASSION – FAMILY – EXCELLENCE!**

Prof. Darla McBryde

Acting Director of the Bearkat Marching Band

Assistant Director of Bands

