



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

August 3, 2023

Welcome to the 2023 Berkak Marching Band. We are excited to have you with us in the BMB for 2023 and look forward to seeing you in August! Percussion and guard begin rehearsals on August 10, with brass and woodwinds beginning on August 11. We are looking forward to a great year with you and our BMB family.

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)

### **Berkak Kickoff**

In addition, the new Berkak Kickoff (BKO) is a week of orientation activities for new SHSU students. Although BKO is at the same time as our summer band rehearsals, please be aware that all BMB members will participate in summer band. Our schedule will include a "BMB Track" which is the same as the online track.

- New members: Berkak Kickoff organizers developed the online track for you. We will have time set aside for you to complete the required modules together as part of our summer band schedule. The noon meal will not be provided by the university as we originally expected.
- Returning members: You may volunteer to help administer the BMB Track of Berkak Kickoff; however, you must not sign up for other BKO commitments.

### **Summer Band**

The BKO schedule dictates that the New Student Convocation (NSC) will be on Sunday, August 13 (a week earlier than usual). Therefore, we must begin summer band two days earlier than in the past to prepare for our NSC performance.

### New Members

- Thursday, August 10, 2- 5 pm:
  - Check into your dorms. This schedule will allow marching band members to move into their dorms the day before all the other new students arrive.
  - **NO APPOINTMENT IS REQUIRED** if you registered for summer band. The Residence Life office has correct records even if you switched dorms or didn't have a dorm assignment when you registered for summer band.
- Drumline and Color Guard members will begin rehearsals on Thursday evening.
- Friday, August 11, 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

- Thursday evening – Drumline and Color Guard will begin rehearsals as usual
- Friday, August 11, 1:00 pm: All returning members officially check in for BMB in the lobby of the Gaertner Performing Arts Center



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## All Members

- Friday, August 11, 5:30 pm: Orientation dinner in the Orange 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!
- NOTE: Please check with your apartment complex to verify your move-in date. In some cases, August 15 is the earliest your apartment may be available. Some of you may prefer to stay with friends if that happens, but please let us know right away if you will need a hotel room: <https://forms.gle/jSkkavVY7Dtw1YeDA>

## CUSA Football Schedule

Our new football CUSA schedule includes a home game on the last Thursday of September. We will also have home games on two Wednesdays in October. We will not know the kickoff time for these games until ten days ahead, but we may have more television coverage than in the past. The performance calendar has all the details we know right now.

## Apartment Move-in Dates for Summer Band

Some of you may live in apartments with move-in dates after summer band. I will write a personal letter to the apartment manager asking for an early move-in date if you will send their contact information to [bxg012@shsu.edu](mailto:bxg012@shsu.edu). If they do not accommodate, the BMB will help with a room at the University Hotel. You will room with one other band member. Use this [link](#) right away if you know you will need a hotel room for summer band.

## Parking

Beware: Parking citations are issued frequently, sometimes hourly, due to the University's use of cameras similar to those used on toll roads for reading license plates. Those cameras monitor the entrance and exit at the parking garage entrance. There are also truck-mounted cameras that will be reading plates frequently all over campus to verify compliance with parking policies and rules. With all the electronic data they collect, leniency with parking violations is a thing of the past, so be sure you know which rules apply to you.

## Communication

BMB uses various social media platforms to send short messages to keep you informed. Please subscribe to these:

The Band App: BMB 2022: <https://band.us/n/aaad96T327mfP>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/608322010559403/>

Instagram: @samhoustonbmb

Twitter: @samhoustonbmb

## Shoes for Marching Uniform

You will need black marching band shoes and black socks (crew or calf length) for the BMB summer and formal marching uniforms. If your high school band wore plain black marching shoes (flat finish, not shiny), then you may wear those shoes as a member of the BMB as long as they are in good condition. You may purchase the marching shoes for \$47 cash directly from our vendor on Tuesday, August 16, at 1:30 p.m.



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### **Summer Uniform**

The summer uniform includes the BMB polo, BMB cap, khaki shorts, black belt, black socks, and black marching shoes. 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. You will need to supply the khaki shorts, a black belt, black socks, and the black marching shoes for the summer uniform. The khaki shorts should be the tan version of khaki rather than the off-white or olive version. The shorts should be conservative and should not be the cargo style. The inseam should be 7" to 9". We will wear the summer uniform to summer band on Friday, August 19 to make sure everyone has what they need. We will also wear the summer uniform for the New Student Convocation photo on Sunday, August 21. *Note: Khaki shorts are not required for color guard members and twirlers.*

### **New Student Convocation on Sunday, August 13**

The full band will be involved in the New Student Convocation photo. We will have a pep band performing at the event, but the entire band will outline a large SH formation on the intramural field near Johnson Coliseum afterward. The new students will fill in the formation for a group photo.

### **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. Be sure to start increasing your water intake at least three days before rehearsals begin. We have learned from our ROTC medics that it takes that long to prepare for outside temperatures at this time of year.

### **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 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Streets

### **Sheet Music**

We will post our marching music and drill coordinate pages online under the [Sheet Music](#) tab on the BMB main page. The Alma Mater, Fight Song, Berkak Fanfare, National Anthem, and Them Basses are currently posted. We will use all five for pregame. 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 but isn't in the band with us, please ask them to join us! If you give us contact information, we can formally invite them. More than ever, the social aspects of marching band membership help you feel connected to the University through various activities and new friendships, creating a sense of belonging at SHSU through the BMB.



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**Student Leadership**

- Our Drum Majors are Hannah Kirby, Anna Ng, and Kynnady Sparks
- Our Student Assistants are Kelly Garrity, Alex Kinsel, Rafael Hernandez, and Harrison Kaufman.

I'm looking forward to seeing you when we begin in August!

Sincerely,

Brian Gibbs, Ph.D.  
Professor of Music  
Associate Director of Bands  
Director of the Bearkat Marching Band  
**Sam Houston State University**