



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

May 1, 2023

At long last, here is the link to our exhibition appearance at Area I. Your spirited, engaging performance represented SHSU quite well! <https://youtu.be/98yK9NT3ppU>

You may have heard that our new football conference schedule includes a home game on the last Thursday of September. We will also have home games on two Wednesdays in October. Although we will not know the kickoff time for these games until ten days ahead, we may have more television coverage than in the past.

Berkat Kickoff

In addition, the new Berkat 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" from noon to 2:00 pm Monday through Thursday for our new band members to experience the essential components of BKO.

- New members: Berkat Kickoff organizers developed the BMB Track for you. Your lunchtime will include a meal and the BKO information daily, Monday through Thursday.
- Returning members: You may volunteer to help administer the BMB Track of Berkat 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 usual 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.
- 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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- 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>

We wanted our [2023 Calendar](#) to be as complete as possible before having finalist interviews for new Drum Majors and Student Assistants.

- Drum Major finalists are Hannah Kirby, Kaitlyn Taras, Anna Ng, Kynnady Sparks, and Rafael Hernandez.
- Student Assistant finalists are Kelly Garrity, Alex Kinsel, Rafael Hernandez, Stephen Boone, and Harrison Kaufman.

We expect to announce our new leadership team by the end of finals week.

Sincerely,

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