



To: Prospective *Band of Blue* Member

From: Craig Cornish, Director of Athletic Bands

Date: May 10, 2024

I hope that this letter finds you enjoying your summer vacation, and that you are excited to start the next chapter in your life at MTSU!

I just wanted to drop you a little note to ask you to consider joining the *Band of Blue* Marching Band for this coming football season and fall semester. Let me tell you a little bit about what we have to offer a member of the *Band of Blue* Marching Band.

First of all, you need to realize that being in the *Band of Blue* is fun! The directors and students work hard to make sure that all our activities and performances are fun and entertaining. Imagine the thrill of getting a great response from thousands of fans at all the football games we're going to perform for this Fall! Conjure the feelings you will get as a performer in the annual Contest of Champions, where the *Band of Blue* has performed in exhibition for the past 57 years! Pep assemblies, ballgames, parades, picnics, and civic festivals are just part of all the cool events for which the *Band of Blue* performs. And, lest I forget, it should be mentioned that the most fun aspect of the *Band of Blue* are the members. Where else will you find 250+ people that love music and marching band? You will have the time of your life, and will make friends that will last a lifetime. The people you meet through the MTSU marching band may be the biggest benefit we offer!

Next, and very important, please realize that you have plenty of time to be in the *Band of Blue* Marching Band. I'm willing to bet that it takes a lot less time than high school Band! Additionally, most of our members have part time jobs – so it is very possible to have a part-time job and be in the marching band (and still make good grades.) Please realize that most new students are amazed at the amount of free time that have in college when compared to high school. You will need some outlet or activity to fill in that time, and the *Band of Blue* is just the right activity to fill out your college experience! You even get the advantage of moving in early if you plan to live in a university dormitory. More details on this will come later in the summer.

Let me close this letter by telling you that should you join the MTSU *Band of Blue*, you will be a part of an organization that is loved on our campus, in the town of Murfreesboro, and in the whole Middle Tennessee area. I hear of colleges and universities where it's not a cool thing to be in band – fortunately such is not the case at MTSU! We are loved and appreciated by University President McPhee, the faculty, the athletic teams, and the students. You are important at MTSU if you are in the band!

If you have any questions, please call us or make an appointment to visit any time. We want to help you make the best decisions possible for your college career!

The Band of Blue Marching Band - 80208 - MUEN 3100 001

craig.cornish@mtsu.edu

How to become a member of the MTSU *Band of Blue* at a glance.....

Who can join?

Any student at MTSU may participate in the *Band of Blue*! You certainly don't have to be a music major! (The band is mostly non-music majors). There are currently no auditions for wind and percussion spots, but you may be asked to play a little so we know what part or instrument to put you on. Percussionists must audition for instrument placement during band camp. Percussionists should email Prof. Cornish for percussion placement music – craig.cornish@mtsu.edu

Spots for Flag, Majorette, and Dance Team are by audition only. Flag auditions are ongoing and spots are still open – ask for the requirements!

What does it cost?

Very little! A pair of black marching shoes, and we even give you money for food during our required band camp. All uniforms, transportation, meal per diem when we travel, etc. is provided. Furthermore, all members successfully completing all requirements of the class receive a stipend from the university at the end of the fall semester. Dorm students get to move in early for free!

How much time does it take once the semester begins?

Probably less than you think! Our normal rehearsal schedule is Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 1:00-2:45 pm. On football game days, we have a warm-up rehearsal before the game.

How do I join?

When you enroll at MTSU, tell your advisor that you want to join the *Band of Blue*. When you fill out your class schedule, include *The Band of Blue Marching Band*, MUEN-3100 as one of your classes. You will receive one credit for the class, and the credit can be used as a PE substitute. You must be enrolled in the

class to be a member. Fill out the information sheet accompanying this mailing and send it to us so we know you are coming.

The class for which you sign up:

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When is band camp?

Band camp begins Monday, August 19 and goes through Saturday, August 24. Percussion sections start on Sunday August 18. Further details about schedules, what to bring, when and where to arrive, how to check into dorms, etc. will be emailed to you early in August.

Additional course numbers for playing in our concert bands:

Symphonic Band: MUEN-3110

Wind Ensemble: MUEN-3120

Auditions for placement in these ensembles will occur the first week of the fall semester. Audition music will be posted on the School of Music website sometime this summer.

Further questions?

Call the MTSU Band office at 615-898-2993 or e-mail Prof. Cornish at craig.cornish@mtsu.edu. We look forward to having you as a member of the MTSU *Band of Blue*!

craig.cornish@mtsu.edu