



Experience
**COLLEGE
GAME DAY**
WITH THE
BAND OF BLUE.

**PARTICIPATING
STUDENTS WILL:**



Perform at halftime
in Floyd Stadium



Experience college
traditions and spirit



Meet students from
across Tennessee

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Dear Directors,

We are pleased to invite your students to participate in Middle Tennessee State University's Band of Blue Day on Saturday, September 5, 2026. Our goal is to provide your students with a memorable experience where they can make new friendships, experience college game day traditions, and perform alongside the MTSU Band of Blue and students from across Middle Tennessee.

This packet contains important information regarding Band of Blue Day, so please take time to read through all materials carefully and share the information with your students and parents. Included you will find a detailed game day schedule, event logistics, student expectations, and a stadium parking map. Kickoff is tentatively scheduled for 6:00pm at Floyd Stadium in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Should you have any questions or concerns leading up to the event, please feel free to contact me directly. To help streamline communication and event coordination, we respectfully ask that all correspondence come through participating band directors rather than students or chaperones.

The Band of Blue has a long-standing tradition of supporting MTSU Athletics and serving as ambassadors for our university. Our students and staff are excited to share this special day of football, music, school spirit, and community with you and your students.

We look forward to welcoming you to campus this fall.

Sincerely,

Bryan T. Braue, DMA
Associate Director of Bands
Director of the Band of Blue Marching Band

Process for Registration & Payment

Participation in Band of Blue Day 2026 is coordinated through each participating school's band program. To ensure a smooth planning process, Band Directors are asked to complete both the registration and payment steps outlined below.

REGISTRATION PROCESS

1. Download the Band of Blue Day Registration Form from our website.
2. Complete the registration form, including:
 - Total number of participating students
 - Instrumentation counts
 - T-shirt sizes
 - Chaperone information
 - Vegetarian meal requests
3. Each school should submit one registration form covering all participating students and chaperones.
4. Email the completed registration form to Dr. Bryan Braue at bryan.braue@mtsu.edu.

Important: Registration must be completed by the participating school or band program. Individual student registrations will not be accepted.

PAYMENT PROCESS

1. Once your registration form has been processed, you will receive a payment link for our Marketplace Store.
2. Submit one payment covering all participating students from your school.
3. Your school's registration will be considered complete once payment has been received.

Important: Payment can only be made electronically through the Marketplace Store link.

Registration Forms and Payments Due: Friday, August 14, 2026

Director and Lead Chaperone Information

Full band participation is not required for this event. Our goal is simply to provide students who are excited about participating with an opportunity to experience an MTSU game day alongside the Band of Blue. Band Directors are encouraged to attend, but their presence is not required. Each participating school must designate at least one approved lead chaperone who will be present and responsible for the group throughout the duration of the event. Schools may designate the Band Director as the lead chaperone if he or she plans to attend.

Band Directors will receive complimentary admission to the game. In addition, each participating school will receive complimentary admission for one approved chaperone for every ten participating students. Additional chaperones, family members, and guests are welcome to attend and may purchase game tickets through MTSU Athletics.

Event Logistics

Parking and Event Check-in:

Schools may arrive by bus, personal vehicles, or a combination of both. Band of Blue Day participants should plan to park in the designated event parking area located on the north side of the MTSU campus (Livestock Lot). Once all participants from a school have arrived, the lead chaperone or Band Director should escort the group to Gate 3 for event check-in. Please note that all students from a participating school must be present before the group may begin the check-in process. During check-in, participants will complete the registration process, pick up their Band of Blue Day T-shirts, and review any final event instructions prior to the afternoon rehearsal.

Campus traffic patterns and parking access may be modified on game day. Certain roads, parking lots, and entrances may be restricted or reserved for game day operations. A detailed parking and event map will be distributed to Directors approximately 48 hours prior to the event. This map will include parking locations, approved walking routes, and directions to the football practice field.

Afternoon Rehearsal:

Following check-in, participants will report to the football practice field for the afternoon rehearsal. This rehearsal is designed to prepare students for the halftime performance while also providing an opportunity to experience the instructional environment, traditions, and culture of the Band of Blue. The rehearsal will begin with a full performance of the Band of Blue pregame show, allowing participants to observe the ensemble in action and gain a better understanding of the game day experience at MTSU.

Following the pregame demonstration, students will participate in sectionals led by members of the Band of Blue instructional staff, student leadership team, and current Band of Blue members. During this time, participants will review music, performance expectations, and any additional materials necessary for the halftime performance. The rehearsal will conclude with the placement of participants into their designated halftime performance positions and multiple run-throughs of the mass band performance. These run-throughs are designed to ensure that all participants feel comfortable, prepared, and confident before taking the field later that evening.

Students are strongly encouraged to review all music, choreography, and instructional materials prior to arriving on campus. Participants who arrive prepared will have a more enjoyable and successful experience throughout the day. Because weather conditions in early September can be warm, students are encouraged to bring a refillable water bottle and remain properly hydrated throughout the event. Please note that attendance at the afternoon rehearsal is required for participation in the halftime performance. Students who do not attend rehearsal will not be permitted to perform during halftime.

Equipment Storage:

At the conclusion of the afternoon rehearsal, Band of Blue Day participants will store their instruments and equipment in designated areas beneath Floyd Stadium. All instrument cases and equipment should be clearly labeled with the student's name and school. The use of blue painter's tape and a black permanent marker is strongly recommended. Participants are required to store all instruments and equipment in the designated storage areas provided by Band of Blue Day staff. Once instruments and equipment have been stored, students will not have access to them again until they are escorted back to the stadium storage area during the second quarter in preparation for the halftime performance. Please note that instruments and performance equipment will not be permitted in the main seating areas of Floyd Stadium.

Stadium Entry & Security:

Band of Blue Day participants will receive their game tickets during check-in. Tickets will indicate seating assignments and any additional information necessary for stadium entry. Because Band of Blue Day takes place during an MTSU football game, all participants, Directors, chaperones, and guests are subject to current stadium security policies and procedures. These policies may include bag restrictions, security screening, and identification requirements. Directors are encouraged to review all stadium policies with their students and chaperones prior to arrival on campus. Updated stadium entry procedures, security policies, and game day information will be distributed to participating schools prior to the event.

Instrument & Equipment Specifics

Woodwinds and Brass:

All woodwind and brass participants are required to provide their own instruments, mouthpieces, reeds, valve oil, and any other accessories needed for a performance. MTSU will not provide instruments or equipment to student participants.

Drumline:

Due to event logistics and performance space limitations, a front ensemble will not be utilized as part of Band of Blue Day. Percussion students are encouraged to participate on battery instruments or cymbals. All percussion participants must provide their own instruments, sticks, mallets, harnesses, and any other equipment required for performance. MTSU will not provide percussion equipment for student participants.

Colorguard:

Colorguard participants will learn a pre-choreographed flag routine as part of the halftime performance. Instructional materials, including a teaching video, will be distributed in advance of the event to assist students with preparation. Participants must provide their own flag and equipment. A solid-color flag is recommended to help create a more uniform visual presentation during the halftime performance. MTSU will not provide equipment for student participants.

Twirlers/Majorettes:

Twirlers and majorettes will learn a pre-choreographed routine as part of the halftime performance. Instructional materials, including a teaching video, will be distributed in advance of the event to assist students with preparation. Participants must provide their own baton or batons, along with any additional equipment needed for a performance. MTSU will not provide equipment for student participants.

Game Day Attire

In order to create a uniform appearance during the halftime performance, all student participants are required to wear the following attire:

- Official Band of Blue Day 2026 T-shirt (distributed to Directors during event check-in)
- Black shorts (students should comply with their school's dress code regarding appropriate length)
- Athletic shoes or sneakers (for safety reasons, flip-flops, sandals, Crocs, boots, and other non-athletic footwear are not permitted)
- Students are strongly encouraged to wear hats and sunglasses while seated in the stands; however, hats and sunglasses must be removed prior to the halftime performance.

Band Directors and chaperones are encouraged to wear a band polo or other school apparel that clearly identifies their high school or band program.

Halftime Performance Procedures

Toward the middle of the second quarter, student participants and their lead chaperone or Band Director will be escorted from the stands to the instrument storage area located beneath Floyd Stadium. At this time, additional chaperones, family members, and guests should remain in the stands to enjoy the performance. Only authorized participants and event personnel will be permitted on the field.

Once instruments and equipment have been retrieved, participants will be guided to the field sidelines and organized according to the performance assignments established during the afternoon rehearsal. As the Band of Blue begins its halftime performance, student participants will be guided to their designated positions on the sideline. All Band of Blue Day participants will then join the Band of Blue on the field for the mass band performance.

Following the performance, participants will be escorted from the field and returned to the stands under the direction of Band of Blue Day staff.

Sample Event Schedule

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2026

12:00pm - Registration Begins (Gate 3, Floyd Stadium)

Note: Only Directors or designated lead chaperones may register participating schools.

12:45pm - Participant Assembly

Note: All student participants, Directors, and lead chaperones assemble on the west side of the football practice field behind the Drum Major podiums.

1:00pm - Band of Blue Pregame Performance

1:15pm - Sectionals with Band of Blue Members (Under the Visitor-Side Stadium Bleachers)

Note: A brief Director and lead chaperone meeting will be held at Gate 3 with Dr. Braue.

2:00pm - Full Ensemble Rehearsal and Field Placement

2:45pm - Break

Note: Participants will store instruments in the designated secure storage area beneath the stadium and change into game-day attire.

3:30pm - Parade to Raider Walk

3:45pm - Raider Walk Performance

4:00pm - Dinner Break

Note: Meals served inside the School of Music.

4:50pm - Band of Blue Sectional Warmups and Inspection on West Lawn of School of Music

Note: High school students are encouraged to observe.

5:10pm - Band of Blue Full Ensemble Warmups on West Lawn of School of Music

Note: High school students are encouraged to observe.

5:20pm - Parade to Floyd Stadium

Note: All high school students, Directors, and lead chaperones should report to their assigned seats at this time. Please refer to your game tickets for seating information.

5:40pm - Pregame Performance

6:00pm - Kickoff: MTSU vs. Murray State

Please note: This schedule is tentative and subject to change based on final game-day operations, stadium access, weather conditions, and kickoff requirements. A final schedule will be emailed out the week of the event.

Suggested Packing List

Instrument:

Please remember to bring your instrument (Yes, it happens every year!). All instrument cases and equipment should be clearly labeled with the student's name and school. This will help facilitate secure instrument storage and retrieval throughout the day.

Instrument Accessories:

Students should bring any accessories needed for successful performance, including reeds, cork grease, valve oil, mouthpieces, ligatures, cleaning supplies, sticks, mallets, or any other instrument-specific equipment.

Music:

Performance music will be distributed electronically to participating band directors prior to the event. Directors are responsible for distributing music to their students and ensuring that all participants bring their music to Band of Blue Day. The halftime performance music for Band of Blue Day will include "Respect" and "Time Warp."

Flip Folders and Lyres:

Students are encouraged to bring a flip folder and lyre for the halftime performance. Memorization is not required.

Performance Attire:

Students should review the uniform requirements outlined elsewhere in this packet. Participants are encouraged to dress comfortably for afternoon rehearsals and should change into their Band of Blue Day t-shirt and performance attire prior to Raider Walk. Participants should wear comfortable athletic shoes suitable for marching and extended periods of walking throughout the day.

Water:

Students should bring a refillable water bottle and remain hydrated throughout the event. Directors are encouraged to ensure that students and chaperones have access to adequate water during afternoon activities. Water will be provided by MTSU during the dinner break and following the halftime performance. Participants may wish to bring additional water as needed.

Rain Gear:

Weather conditions can change quickly. Participants are encouraged to bring a lightweight poncho in the event of rain. Please review current stadium policies regarding umbrellas and other prohibited items prior to arrival.