

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THE UPCOMING SEASON

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS

Greetings and YBP from Abilene! We are excited to see everyone back on campus in just a few weeks as we begin to prepare for our 2025 season! So many things are going to make this a special year! Our 2025 show will be full of wonderful music that will appeal to fans of all ages! Our show will be titled "From Stage to Screen" and will feature music from musicals that have made it big in the box office. The show will include the 20th Century Fox theme, "You Can't Stop the Beat" from the musical **Hairspray**, a medley of "Music of the Night" and "One Day More" from **Phantom of the Opera** and **Les Misérables**, respectively, and close with the biggest hit from the movies over the last year, "Defying Gravity" from **Wicked**. Speaking of our fans, we look forward to each of our wonderful performance opportunities this fall. For the first time in a few years, there have not been any summertime changes to the football schedule for this fall!



The dates that have been on the calendar for a few months now will remain unaltered. This does include 5 home games and one exhibition performance at the UIL Region 6 contest at Shotwell Stadium. Also as a reminder that Homecoming falls much later this year than normal – November 1! Although our schedule seems pretty stable for now, you may have heard that we will be entering a new conference in 2026! We do not anticipate many major changes for football due to the shift, but we are sure there will be a few items that we will learn about and prepare for throughout this year in anticipation of the change. Please get the word out about the family that is the ACU Bands, our great participation scholarships for Marching Band (the envy of many university bands!) and our great organization. Enrollment is still growing for this fall, but that does not mean we do not still have space for more people in our Big Purple family! The social and spiritual ties we form every year are such a blessing, and this year they will be unique and wonderful. We can't wait to see all of you and get started! Have a great rest of the summer and YBP – that's Yay Big Purple for you New Heads!

–Dr. Steven Ward, Director of Bands and Orchestra
–Dr. Dan Harbaugh, Associate Director of Bands



THE BIG PURPLE BAND'S GUIDE TO SUMMER BAND FOR NEW HEADS

Marching band in the Texas summer is basically a spicy sauna with instruments, so here are some silly but serious survival tips. First, chug that water like it's the last Dr Pepper on Earth. Hydration is key unless you wanna melt like a popsicle on the pavement. Slather on sunscreen like you're a sugar cookie getting frosted and wear light clothes unless you enjoy becoming a human baked potato. Don't skip breakfast (your body can't run on vibes alone), and maybe avoid scarfing down a burrito right before high knees. Finally, if you feel woozy, don't be a hero, tell someone before you faint into a sousa. Stay cool, march on, and embrace the sweat!

PARTICIPATION SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

1st year – \$1730

2nd year – \$1830

3rd year – \$1930

4th year – \$2030

This number changes per year and will be based on how many years you are in the marching band. see the directors letter for a bit more information on our great scholarship!



ANNOUNCEMENTS, RES HALLS AND SUMMER BAND INFO

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Check out the calendar online! Go to the band page on The ACU website and click on the calendar link. This is always the best calendar for you to check. You can also subscribe to it through Google Calendar. Please go online and fill out the **BIG PURPLE FORM** right away if you haven't done that yet so we can have your NEW apparel waiting for you! Make sure you are registered for band! As you get your schedules put together and enrolled for classes, please communicate with us if you have class conflict issues.

- **MPEI 301.01 (0 credit)**
- **MPEI 311.01 (1 hr credit)**

**Rehearsals are MW 11:15-12:45;
F 11:50-12:45.**

**ALL band members receive
150 chapel credits!**

RESIDENCE HALL INFORMATION FOR ALL BAND MEMBERS: ALL band members who will be living in residence halls need to participate in early move-in Friday, August 15th. The residence halls will be open from 1:00pm-5:00pm. We will have Old Heads and Band Officers available to help you move things into your room. Fill out the Big Purple Form by RIGHT AWAY so that Residence Life office has the information they need. We can't wait to have everyone on campus! Questions about moving into the residence halls? Call/text Laura Dickson at (325)518-7359 or email: laura.dickson@acu.edu



BIG PURPLE MELLOS

SUMMER BAND

Check-in (for everyone) will be Friday, August 15th. Meals (at the Bean) will be available from Sat the 16th. Regular meal plans begin Tues the 18th. Freshmen & New Heads - we have worked with the Wildcat Week organizers to make it as easy as possible for you. You can participate in both! Officers and leaders - The required training and work sessions are August 13th-15th. If you are moving into the dorm that is Sun Aug 10th OR Wed Aug 13th (let us know!)

OFFICERS AND LEADERS:

OFFICERS:

President: **Karissa Ward**

Vice President: **Creed Ezell**

Secretary: **Jillian Leggett**

Hist./SM/Photographer: **Ashlynn Smith**

Hist./SM/Photographer: **Autum Olivas**

Chaplain: **Laura Evans**

Fossil Rep: **Kierra Bacon**

Senior Rep: **Cierra Zamora**

Junior Rep: **Corbin Moses**

Sophomore Rep: **Lillian Lowe**

Freshman Rep: **TBD**

Drum Major: **Kierra Bacon**

Drum Major: **Audrey Herman**

Drum Major: **Karissa Ward**

Librarian: **Laura Gill**

Band Ops/Truck Driver: **Jason Miller**

Band Operations: **Zander Antonacci**

Band Operations: **Kasen Kitchens**

Band Operations: **Jude Torres**

SECTION LEADERS:

Flute & Piccolo: **Abigail Shields & Avery Morris**

Clarinet: **Ryan Gussert & Eric Terrones**

Saxophone: **Cierra Zamora**

Trumpet: **Kayla Shrewsbury**

Horn/Mello: **Kasen Kitchens**

Trombone: **Gage McClaine**

Baritone: **Derek Gannon**

Sousaphone: **Javier Ramierz III**

Percussion/Battery: **Creed Ezell**

Percussion Battery: **Olivia Cromis**

Colorguard Captain: **Makenzi Fatheree**



BIG PURPLE ON PRUPLE FRIDAY

BAND PRESIDENT:



BAND PRESIDENT - KARSSA WARD

Heyyy band!!!

My name is Karissa Ward and I'll be your President for '25-26! It is going to be a fantastic year, and we are so excited to welcome all of the New Heads (freshman and new members) into the Big Purple aka YBP (Yay Big Purple). We cannot wait for you all to join our family! We've got a fantastic leadership team who is so ready to welcome you all! We've got some exciting things coming up this year as well! For example, we will be performing as the Exhibition Performance for UIL Marching Contest, and we just found out the Wind Ensemble will be performing at the CBDNA conference at UNT in February!

Reminder to make sure to fill out the Big Purple form and save the Band Calendar to stay updated on events, rehearsals, and performances/games. If you have any questions, do not be afraid to reach out! We cannot wait to see everyone for summer band this August! Hope you all have a great rest of your summer!!

Go YBP!!!

Karissa Ward, President

AUDITION INFO & OTHER ENSEMBLES



PERCUSSION

Percussionists will audition for placement in either the marching drum line or front ensemble. Percussion auditions will begin Friday, August 15th, 7:00–9:30 pm. Everyone who auditions will be placed! Audition materials and information can be found at Percussion Audition Information. For more information regarding auditions, please contact: Dr. Allen Teel, Percussion
Email: teela@acu.edu
Phone: (325) 674-2030

COLORGUARD

The colorguard is present at all rehearsals and performances, including football games, parades, etc. Check out our webpages: Big Purple Colorguard and Winter guard Acuity. Auditions (basic fundamentals) Prep clinic Friday Aug. 16th: 7:00–9:30 pm Auditions Saturday Aug. 17th, 9:00–11:30 am For more information regarding auditions, please contact: Becky Mathis, Color Guard Instructor.
Email: rebecca.mathis@acu.edu
Phone: (325) 513-3720



ORCHESTRA

The Civic Orchestra of Abilene is a cooperative effort between ACU, HSU, and McM. It is a full symphony orchestra and a fantastic experience! Auditions are by submitted video due the first week of classes. Visit the website for more information or contact Dr. Ward. Civic Orchestra of Abilene.
Email: steven.ward@civicorchabilene.org
Phone: (325) 674-2028



JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Auditions for Jazz Ensemble and Combos take place the first week of classes. For audition guidelines and updates check out Jazz Ensemble on our website. Directed by Dr. David Amlung, the Jazz Ensemble is one of the great traditions and fun ensembles at ACU! If you have any questions, please contact: Dr. David Amlung, Jazz.
Email: david.amlung@acu.edu

UNIFORM INFORMATION

For certain performances, we use an alternate uniform (Big Purple polo and black shorts or black pants). Instead of using one particular brand of shorts/pants for all members, we allow students to provide their own. This is the best way to ensure members have shorts/pants that look and fit the best for their particular body type.

We wear our Polos tucked-in. If your shorts/pants have belt loops you are required to wear a belt.

Shorts: Style – plain with no holes or markings. **Men's length** at the knee, with the bottom of the shorts no higher than 2 inches above the kneecap, and no lower than the center of the knee cap. **Women's length** must have an inseam of 7-9 inches (mid thigh or lower). A flat front (non-pleated), non-cuffed short, like a chino short. No cargo shorts or shorts with protruding pockets are allowed.

Pants: The pants should be plain and black (non-faded/no patterns). **No leggings.**

Please bring your shorts/pants with you to summer band—you will need them for the Gameday 101 performance and Opening Ceremony. Examples are shown on the right.

Instrument Rental: Marching and concert instruments are available for rental. This information, along with other forms to fill out will be given at check in on:

Friday, August 15th from 5-6:30pm.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP MANDATORY SESSIONS:

Sun Aug 10th

3pm - 5pm	Leadership dorm move-in	Dorms
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Tues Aug 12th

1pm - 3pm	Leadership dorm move-in	Dorms
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Wed Aug 13

12pm - 1:30pm	Lunch & Opening leaders meeting	WPAC
2pm - 5pm	Leadership training	WPAC
5pm-6:30pm	Dinner	WPAC
6:30pm	Training/Work Session	WPAC

Thur Aug 14

8:30am - 11:30am	Work Session	WPAC
12:15pm - 1:45pm	Lunch	WPAC
2pm - 5pm	Work Session	WPAC
5:30pm - 6:30pm	Dinner	WPAC
6:30pm - 9:00pm	Work Session/music & marching	WPAC

Fri Aug 15

8:30am - 11am	Work Session	WPAC
11:30am	Lunch	WPAC
1pm - 5pm	Move-in res halls - ALL BAND MEMBERS	Dorms

ALL BAND MEMBERS:

Fri Aug 15

1pm - 5pm	Move-in res halls - New Heads!	Dorms
5:30pm - 6:30pm	ALL! Sign-In & Get Gear	WPAC
7pm - 9:30pm	Colorguard meet/prep clinic	WPAC
7pm - 9:30pm	Percussion Meet/auditions	WPAC
8pm - 10pm	Games/Snacks/meet & greet	WPAC

Sat Aug 16

8am - 9am	Breakfast (Bean)	Bean
9am - 11:30am	Colorguard Auditions	Stompin' Grounds
9am - 10:15am	Marching Rehearsal	Fry/WPAC
10:15am - 11:30am	Inside Rehearsal	Bean
11:30am - 1pm	Lunch (Bean)	WPAC
1pm - 4pm	Break	
4pm - 6pm	Rehearsal	WPAC
6pm - 6:30pm	Devotional	WPAC
6:30pm - 8pm	Dinner (Bean open for all)	Bean

Sun Aug 17

9am - 10am	Breakfast (Bean)	Bean
10:15am - 11am	Devotional/Communion (optional)	WPAC
11am - 12pm	Lunch (Bean)	Bean
4pm - 5:30pm	Rehearsal	WPAC
6:30pm - 9:30pm	Dinner and Games at Gatti's	Gatti's

Mon Aug 18

8am - 11am
 11am - 12pm
 2pm - 5:30pm
 5:30pm - 6:30pm
 7pm - 10pm

Marching Rehearsal
 Lunch (Bean)
 Rehearsal
 Dinner (Bean)
 Sonic!!

Stompin' Grounds
 Bean
 WPAC
 Bean
[Sonic](#)

Tue Aug 19: *Tropical Tuesday*

7am - 8am
 8am - 11am
 1:30pm - 5pm
 5pm - 6:30pm
 6:30pm - 8pm
 9:15pm - 10:30pm

Breakfast snacks
 Marching Rehearsal
 Rehearsal
 Uniform Fitting: Med. Girls
 Uniform Fitting: Med. Guys
 Candlelight Devo (WEEK, Optional)

WPAC Lobby
 Stompin' Grounds
 WPAC
 Bottom Floor WPAC
[Bottom Floor WPAC](#)
[Bauechamp Ampitheatre](#)

Wed Aug 20: CHARACTER DAY

8am - 10:15am
 10:15am - 12:15pm
 1:30pm - 4pm
 8pm - 10:30pm

Marching Rehearsal
 Rehearsal
 Uniform Fitting: XS & S
 Miniture Golf and Games

Stompin' Grounds
 WPAC
 WPAC Basement
[Play Faire Park](#)

Thu Aug 21: TIE DYE THURSDAY

8am - 10am
 10:15am - 12pm
 1:30pm - 3:45pm
 8pm - 10:30pm

Marching Rehearsal
 Uniform Fitting: L & XL
 Rehearsal
 New Head Dinner (Elect Officer)

Stompin' Grounds
 WPAC
 WPAC
 WPAC North Lobby

Fri Aug 22: *Purple Friday!*

8am - 11am
 2:30pm - 5pm
 6pm - 8pm
 8pm - 9pm

Marching Rehearsal
 Rehearsal
 Pizza
 Gameday 101 Performance

Stompin' Grounds
 WPAC
 WPAC Lobby
[Wildcat Stadium](#)

Sat Aug 23: SECTION DAY

8am - 11am
 11am - 2pm

Marching Rehearsal
 Uniform Fitting: Freshman New Heads

Stompin' Grounds
 WPAC Basement

Sun Aug 24

3pm - 5pm

Opening Assembly Rehearsal

[Moody Collesium](#)

Mon Aug 25

10am - 12pm

Opening Assembly

[Moody Collesium](#)