

# 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 on campus in August for Summer Band as we begin preparations for our 2026 season. So many things are going to make this a special year!

Our 2026 show will be filled with great music that will appeal to fans of all ages, and will feature some modern takes on jazz standards, including **In the Mood** and **Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy**, among other works. This promises to be a fun show from start to finish!



BIG PURPLE GUARD

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 since April remain unaltered, including 6 home games and Homecoming October 31st.



BIG PURPLE WOODWINDS

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 – **\$1780**  
 2nd year – **\$1880**  
 3rd year – **\$1980**  
 4th year – **\$2080**

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 14th. 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](#) **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](mailto:laura.dickson@acu.edu).



BIG PURPLE MELLOS

### SUMMER BAND

Check-in (for everyone) will be **Friday, August 14th**. Meals (at the Bean) will be available from **Saturday the 15th**. Regular meal plans begin **Tuesday 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 12th-14th**. If you are moving into the dorm that is **Sunday, August 9th OR Tuesday August 11th** (let us know!)

## OFFICERS AND LEADERS:

### OFFICERS:

President: **Laura Evans**

VP's: **Corbin Moses & Brandon Cheever**

Secretary: **Jillian Leggett**

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

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

Chaplains: **Laura Evans & Annabelle McCormick**

Fossil Rep: **Creed Ezell**

Senior Rep: **Derek Gannon**

Junior Rep: **Lillian Lowe**

Sophomore Rep: **Lydia Erb**

Freshman Rep: **TBD**

Drum Major: **Audrey Herman**

Drum Major: **Courtney Newton**

Drum Major: **Shawn Gelski**

Librarian: **Kye Ritchey**

Asst. Librarian: **Hannah Hartgrove**

Band Operations: **Laura Evans**

Band Operations: **Kasen Kitchens**

Band Operations: **Jude Torres**

Band Operations: **Nevaeh Moreno**

### SECTION LEADERS:

Flute & Piccolo: **Jillian Leggett & Avery Morris**

Clarinet: **Hannah Hartgrove**

Bass Clarinet: **Brandon Villanueva**

Saxophone: **Ashlynn Smith & Annabelle McCormick**

Trumpet: **Kayla Shrewsbury & Kyle Finley**

Mellophone: **Kasen Kitchens**

Low Brass: **Brandon Cheever & Derek Gannon**

Percussion/Battery: **Corbin Moses**

Percussion Battery: **Baylee Nance**

Colorguard Captains: **Lorna O'Hare & Lauren Burris**



SOME BAND MEMBERS ON PURPLE FRIDAY

## BAND PRESIDENT:



BAND PRESIDENT - LAURA EVANS

Hello Friends!

My name is Laura Evans and I will be your band president for the 2026-2027 school year. It is going to be a wonderful year, and I can't wait to see all of your beautiful faces. We are so excited to welcome all of the New Heads (freshmen and new members) into our Big Purple family and make lots of new memories! The leadership team is committed to helping you get started, and we couldn't be more excited for the new year. Make sure you fill out the [Big Purple Form](#) and check our [Band Calendar](#) regularly for updates on all our fun events, rehearsals, and performances. Do not be afraid to ask questions, and you are welcome to reach out to me whenever you need anything! We will be praying for you in preparation for this school year, and can't wait to meet you in August.

YBP!

*Laura Evans, 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 14th, 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](mailto: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](#). Audition Prep Clinic (basic fundamentals) Friday Aug. 14th: 7:00–9:30 pm. Auditions Saturday Aug. 15th, 9:00–11:30 am. For more information regarding auditions, please contact: Becky Mathis, Color Guard Instructor.  
Email: [rebecca.mathis@acu.edu](mailto: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.  
Email: [steven.ward@civicorchabilene.org](mailto: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 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](mailto: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 and pants for all members, we allow students to provide their own. This is the best way to ensure members have shorts and pants that look and fit the best for their particular body type.

**WE WEAR OUR POLOS TUCKED IN. IF YOUR SHORTS OR 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 or black jeans.**



**Please bring your shorts AND 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 14<sup>th</sup> from 5–6:30pm.

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP MANDATORY SESSIONS:

### Sun Aug 9th

|           |                         |       |
|-----------|-------------------------|-------|
| 3pm - 5pm | Leadership dorm move-in | Dorms |
|-----------|-------------------------|-------|

### Tues Aug 11th

|           |                         |       |
|-----------|-------------------------|-------|
| 1pm - 3pm | Leadership dorm move-in | Dorms |
|-----------|-------------------------|-------|

### Wed Aug 12th

|                   |                                 |      |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|------|
| 11:30am - 12:30pm | Lunch & Opening leaders meeting | WPAC |
| 2pm - 5pm         | Leadership training             | WPAC |
| 5pm-6:30pm        | Dinner                          | WPAC |
| 6:30pm            | Training/Work Session           | WPAC |

### Thur Aug 13th

|                  |                               |      |
|------------------|-------------------------------|------|
| 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 14th

|               |                                      |       |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|-------|
| 9:00am - 11am | Work Session                         | WPAC  |
| 11:30am       | Lunch                                | WPAC  |
| 1pm - 5pm     | Move-in res halls - ALL BAND MEMBERS | Dorms |

## OPENING WEEKEND FOR ALL BAND MEMBERS:

### Fri Aug 14th

|                 |  |       |
|-----------------|--|-------|
| 1pm - 5pm       | Move-in res halls - Welcome New Heads! | Dorms |
| 5:00pm - 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 15th

|                   |                            |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 8am - 9am         | Breakfast (Bean)           | <a href="#">Bean</a> |
| 9am - 11:30am     | Colorguard Auditions       | North Lobby          |
| 9am - 10:15am     | Marching Rehearsal         | Stomp'n' Grounds     |
| 10:15am - 11:30am | Inside Rehearsal           | Fry/WPAC             |
| 11:30am - 1pm     | Lunch (Bean)               | Bean                 |
| 1pm - 3pm         | Break                      |                      |
| 3pm - 4pm         | Rehearsal                  | WPAC                 |
| 6pm - 6:30pm      | Devotional                 | WPAC                 |
| 6:30pm - 8pm      | Dinner (Bean open for all) | Bean                 |

### Sun Aug 16th

|                 |                                 |                         |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 9am - 10am      | Breakfast (Bean)                | Bean                    |
| 10:15am - 11am  | Devotional/Communion (optional) | WPAC                    |
| 11am - 12pm     | Lunch (Bean)                    | Bean                    |
| 1pm - 3:30pm    | Rehearsal                       | WPAC                    |
| 4pm - 5:30pm    | Rehearsal                       | WPAC                    |
| 6:30pm - 9:30pm | Dinner and Games at Gatti's     | <a href="#">Gatti's</a> |

# ACU BANDS

## CALENDAR



Please make sure you follow [the online calendar](#) for the most up to date information about our schedule! This is a public calendar so add it to your calendars! If you are enrolled, it is easily seen in Canvas as well!