

# WELCOME TO THE “ALL-AMERICAN” MARCHING BAND!

## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTORS

Greetings from the Elliott Hall of Music!

We are so excited to know you are planning on auditioning for the 135<sup>th</sup> edition of the Purdue “All-American” Marching Band – truly the Heartbeat of Purdue University! This year’s Band Camp comes as our campus, state, and country continue to face the coronavirus pandemic that so radically affected our lifestyles and tragically impacted hundreds of thousands of families. Our goal is to provide the most normal experience we can for our members and fans, while making sure we are always connected with our campus medical and safety professionals on best practices. We intend to do everything we can to keep you safe and happy in this program.

This should go without saying, but ALL University-mandated precautions for COVID-19 mitigation will be practiced with the AAMB. We expect our students to lead the charge toward the safest possible environment at Purdue University.

The most significant change for the 2020 season is that we plan on accepting EVERY instrumentalist in the woodwind, brass, and percussion sections of the AAMB. While in some cases we will need students to participate in other roles than their primary instrument (examples include shifting within the drumline, non-playing sections where more participants are needed, etc.), every student who auditions on woodwind, brass, or percussion will be accepted into the AAMB this year. This does NOT apply to auxiliary sections whose audition process is already complete, and it does NOT apply to the World’s Largest Drum Crew.

There is a lot of information available, and you need to make sure you read it all before arriving for Band Camp. Of particular note, please make sure you are completely aware of all audition requirements and all aspects of the Camp and Season schedules.

Golden Silks, Goldusters, and Twirlers: Welcome to the AAMB, and congratulations on your successful audition! The below information all applies to you except where you see references to “auditions;” you’ve already taken care of that.


To get you started on the right (well... left) foot, please read the points below carefully. This information is also available on our Purdue Bands & Orchestras website ([www.purdue.edu/bands](http://www.purdue.edu/bands)). If you have any questions, please contact the band office (765.494.0770) and we will be happy to assist.

Thank you again for joining us this season, and we wish you good luck and good skill on your preparation process. We are so excited for our season, and we can’t wait to meet you and get it all started!

Warmest Regards,



Jay S. Gephart  
Co-Director, “All-American” Marching Band  
Professor, Al G. Wright Chair of Purdue Bands & Orchestras



Matthew R. Conaway  
Co-Director, “All-American” Marching Band  
Associate Professor of Bands

## COMING TO BAND CAMP? WELCOME ABOARD!

Everyone coming to band camp needs to register as soon as possible. Please navigate to <https://www.purdue.edu/bands/registration/>, log in, and complete the band camp registration. Thanks for helping us maintain the most accurate roster possible!

## DATABASE

1. All students must go to the following link and complete your profile: <https://www.purdue.edu/bands/registration/> (after logging in, click on “My Profile”). Returning members should be able to copy in the previous year’s information, making this a VERY easy process!
2. This form includes your medical/insurance information, so please make sure all information is completely up to date.
3. If you do not have a passport, leave that information blank. Even though your registration may show that you are less than 100% complete, we recognize it as being done.

***The database/medical information must be completed before you can participate in Marching Band Camp.***

## COVID-19 TESTING

All students must have their university-required COVID-19 test complete (and test negative) before any participation in the AAMB will be permitted.

## NOT COMING TO BAND CAMP?

If your plans have changed and you are not planning on participating in Band Camp/AAMB this season, please reconsider!

If, after reconsidering, you determine that you still cannot participate, please email your section leader and let them know you are not planning on attending. If you have already registered for band camp, navigate to <https://www.purdue.edu/bands/registration/>, log in, and remove yourself from the band camp registration. We cannot manually remove you, so you will continue to get camp update emails from us until you remove yourself from this list.

## ARRIVAL DATES AND TIMES

The Band Camp schedule is addressed later in this letter. This section is merely a summary of initial report times for each group of attendees.

- **Student Leadership Team:** Monday, August 17, 8:00 AM Check-In
- **ALL Drumline, Golden Silks, Goldusters, Twirlers, and Big Bass Drum:** Tuesday, August 18, 8:00 AM Check-In
- **NEW Woodwind, Brass, and Big Ten Flag Candidates:** Wednesday, August 19, 8:00 AM Check-In
- **RETURNING Woodwind, Brass, and Big Ten Flag Candidates:** Thursday, August 20, 8:00 AM Check-In

The check-in process will be mostly virtual this season. Information regarding check-in will be posted at [www.purdue.edu/bands/ensembles/aamb](http://www.purdue.edu/bands/ensembles/aamb) once available.

## ITEMS YOU WILL NEED FOR AAMB PARTICIPATION (SUGGESTED AND REQUIRED)

1. **Shoes:** Comfortable shoes for rehearsal are required. Tennis shoes are the norm. Sandals, flip-flops, etc. are not an acceptable alternative. Students are encouraged to break-in shoes before arriving to camp!
  2. **Large water bottle or CamelBak-type water backpack.** (REQUIRED)
  3. **Reeds:** Woodwind players will need to provide reeds. We expect students to use quality reeds at all times.
  4. **Supplies:** All musicians should come to camp with your own supply of cork grease, slide oil, valve oil, etc. to keep your instrument in great working order.
  5. **Instrument:** All candidates for wind instruments except for mellophone, baritone, and sousaphone are expected to bring their own instrument to camp. Everyone should bring their own mouthpiece whenever possible.
  6. **Drawstring backpack:** This is HIGHLY suggested to carry drill charts, water bottles, etc. to and from the drill field each day.
  7. **Flip folder:** EVERY INSTRUMENTALIST (including percussion and piccolo players) is required to own a flip folder for the music. These may be purchased in the Band Kloset if you do not already have one.
  8. **White gloves:** all students using a university woodwind or brass instrument will be required to use white gloves at every rehearsal/performance. These can be purchased in the Kloset.
9. **Black Shorts:** all students must provide a pair of solid black shorts (*no stripes, patterns, or large logos*) that can be used for all Gold Day rehearsals and hot-weather performances throughout the season.
  10. **Black Slacks:** Solid black slacks are required for this season for all sections other than the Goldusters, Golden Silks, and Twirlers. These will be used in performances, and shall not have any visible logo. Auxiliaries – this is TBD by your instructor, and will be sent out soon.
  11. **Black Shoes:** Solid black (including laces) athletic or marching shoes are required. Again, no visible logos in any color other than black. Veteran band members may use their existing shiny black marching shoes. Auxiliaries – this is TBD by your instructor, and will be sent out soon.
12. **Sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat:** Highly recommended at camp.

## MUSIC PREPARATION

New wind candidates for marching band will play their music audition one week prior to their arrival to campus. An audition schedule will be released by our student leaders around August 3. Auditions will be conducted in Webex, and a link will be provided prior to the audition. Audition materials are here: <https://www.purdue.edu/bands/fall-2020-aamb-audition-information> (password: audition). Drumline candidates should navigate directly to [www.purduedrumline.com](http://www.purduedrumline.com) for audition information.

Returning wind players should have already completed their music audition. Anyone who hasn't should ask their student leaders to be added to the audition list.

Under no circumstances should anyone arrive at camp without significant musical preparation on the audition materials. Please work with your student leaders with any audition preparation questions!

## INSTRUMENT CHECK-OUT

Anyone using a school instrument for camp will be issued an instrument and locker at check-in. All woodwind and brass candidates will be expected to provide their own mouthpiece, though one will be provided by the department in hardship cases.

## BAND CAMP SCHEDULE

The most up-to-date camp schedule is always available at <https://www.purdue.edu/bands/ensembles/aamb/>. Please check this frequently to see if there have been any changes. Any conflicts with the camp schedule should be communicated to Prof. Conaway ([conaway@purdue.edu](mailto:conaway@purdue.edu)) immediately.

## RESIDENCE HALL CHECK-IN

Students will receive a link from University Residences to select their early move-in time when they receive their housing assignment on July 23. We recommend moving into your University Residence one day before your listed start date on the camp schedule.

## COURSE REGISTRATION

1. During registration, remember to sign up for Band 11000-001, which is the course number for Marching Band.
2. Students will need to be registered for the correct Band class as soon as possible, but certainly no later than the end of the first week of classes.

## SEASON SCHEDULE

Our performance schedule is impossible to determine at this time due to the uncertainty regarding the football schedule. We will rehearse per our course schedule, and will give the maximum amount of notice possible regarding scheduled performances. The best we can say for now is to try to keep weekends open. Conflicts will be collected at the beginning of the semester, and known weekend schedule conflicts will need to be reported well in advance.

## COURSE CONFLICTS

We allow up to 2 hours per week of course overlap with BAND 110 in the fall semester. Schedule overrides can be requested using the schedule assistant tool. That will send a request to Janet Baker in the band office, and she will process the override after faculty approval. Note that non-course conflicts will not be considered (outside employment, study time, etc.).

## REQUIRED COSTS BILLED BY PURDUE

All students who are accepted to the AAMB will be expected to purchase certain mandatory uniform items upon their acceptance. These items are purchased through the university, and will be billed to your MyPurdue account sometime during the first semester. For planning purposes, a rough breakdown of costs is as follows:

- Band Jacket: ~\$80 (returning members should have this already)
  - Auxiliary units utilize a different apparel package that will cost approximately \$140 (returning members should have this already)
  - Drumline utilizes a different jacket
- Band Polo Shirt: \$~25 (returning members should have this already)
- 2020 “Gold Day” Hat: \$15 (all 2020 members will need to purchase this)

Note that these fees are in addition to the course/activity fees that are concurrent with enrollment in BAND 11000, which will total \$170 for the semester. Again, all fees are billed to your MyPurdue/bursar account several weeks into the fall semester, so don't be surprised when this bill comes across!

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on Instagram for official updates and unique content, and tag us @purduebands!

@purduebands – MAIN ACCOUNT

@purdueaambpiccs

@worldslargestdrum

@aamb\_clarinets

@aamb\_btf

@purdue\_mellos

@drummajors\_aamb

@aamb\_neil

@purduegoldensilkscolorguard

@purdoobahs

@purduegoldusterdanceteam

@aamb.trumpets

@purduewirling

@aamb\_bonestagram

@kky\_gammapi

@purduedrumline

@purduebetasigma

@saxes\_of\_purdue

## IN CLOSING...

- Start hydrating regularly NOW. Band Camp is almost always extremely warm, and we rehearse on asphalt.
- Start conditioning yourself to be on your feet for long periods of time. Frequent brisk walks will help you start to get into condition.
- Complete the profile form as discussed above. You must have the medical information completed in order to participate.
- Get in the habit of answering all correspondence immediately. Your parents will not be able to do this for you, as we ONLY communicate with students about schedules, course requirements, and nearly everything else about your potential participation in our programs.

We know this is a ton of information, but it is all relevant to coming into this program with a complete understanding of the schedule and preliminary expectations of membership in the “All-American” Marching Band. Just focus on coming in and showing the very best of your work ethic and abilities. Come prepared, ask questions, and do everything in your power to be prepared for camp. You're in for a great experience this year!