

Subject: Band Special - August 2021 Newsletter

Date: Monday, August 2, 2021 at 2:16:44 PM Central Daylight Time

From: University Bands

To: University Bands



Message from the Dr. Knighten

Greetings from the Hill!

We are less than two weeks away from the first meeting of the 2021 Razorback Band! We look forward to the return of face-to-face instruction, full band rehearsals, the opportunity to connect with so many friends.

During the last sixteen months we have all learned to be flexible and adapt to the latest Covid-19 guidelines related to our health and safety. As of now, the University of Arkansas has planned for face-to-face instruction. The vaccination rate of Razorback Band students is well-above 80% and we anticipate that number will increase more in the next two weeks.

The University of Arkansas Bands will follow the latest recommendations from the Center for Disease Control and the Arkansas Department of Health, which now

include strong recommendations for unvaccinated people to wear masks indoors and outdoors in crowded settings. We will urge all students to be vaccinated and use a face mask at all indoor rehearsals, although the vaccine and use of a face mask is not mandatory. The band faculty and staff will continue to reevaluate our guidelines and procedures throughout the fall semester, but here is additional information that may be helpful to you at this time.

1. Following university guidelines, social distancing has been reduced to 3-foot spacing.
2. All students attending an indoor rehearsal that includes the playing of woodwind and brass instruments will be encouraged to wear a mask. Instrumentalists will be encouraged to use a bell cover.
3. Bell covers will be provided. Playing masks will be provided to members of concert bands.
4. Brass instrumentalists will not empty instruments on the floor. Cups or puppy pads will be provided, or you may bring a rag.
5. Water fountains will be operable and there is a water bottle filler that may be used.
6. Hand sanitizer is available in each major hallway of the Epley Band Building.

Students who are planning to participate in a Fall semester concert band may check out an instrument during check-in at Early Week. Additional check-out times will be available during the week before classes.

Please contact the band office at (479) 575-4100 if you have any questions related to Covid-19 policies in band rehearsals this Fall. We are looking forward to welcoming you all to campus and rehearsals soon.

Go Hogs!

Chris Knighten
Director of Bands

Schedules

To view the Early Week schedule, click [HERE](#).

To view the schedule for Leadership Camp, click [HERE](#).

Weather and Hydration

This is a friendly reminder to make sure you have appropriate marching shoes and an individual water water jug for Early Week and regular season practices. For safety reasons, there will not be any shared water stations in practice. The weather will be hot, we will be outdoors most of the time, and you must make sure you come to band already hydrated and with your personal water jug to remain that way.

Proper Rehearsal Attire

It is expected that all members of the Razorback Marching Band are dressed in appropriate attire for a marching band ensemble. All members must have closed-toes athletic shoes for rehearsals. Sandals, slides, crocs, are among the types of shoes that are not acceptable.

Health Form and Consent and Release Form

Please submit both of the following forms before your arrival to Early Week - it will require your UofA username and password. You will not be admitted into Early Week without these two forms completed.

- [Health Form](#) - takes approximately 15 minutes to complete. Have your insurance information and emergency contact information handy.
- [Consent and Release Form](#) - takes approximately five minutes to complete.

RMB Placement Auditions

For all winds, initial placement in the pregame and halftime drills will be based on your playing audition for chair placement and marching audition.

- The playing audition will be on Monday, August 15th.
- The marching audition component will be taught during the first two days of Early Week, and auditions will also take place on Monday, August 15th.

Audition materials are available now in the "Band Members Only" section of the band website at bands.uark.edu. Enter your university email username and password to access this section. Click the 'Fall 2021 RMB Chair Placement Excerpts' and the files are in PDF format, organized by instrument. The fight song excerpt must be MEMORIZED. You may use the music for the other excerpts. If you have any questions, please contact [Dr. Summers](#).

RMB Required Merchandise

Some members still have not purchased their required merchandise. Delays on these orders puts an extraordinary burden on our administrative staff. If you have not yet purchased your required merchandise, do so as soon as possible [here](#). If you have questions, reach out to [JR Hinkson](#).

Early Week Locations and Food

During Early Week we will rotate through Epley Band Building, the Greek Theater, The Gardens, and the East Baum practice facility. Please familiarize yourselves with these locations.

Most meals are on your own (or on your meal contracts) during Early Week. Please note that the cafeterias are NOT open for Breakfast on August 14th and 15th. You will need to make plans for food at an alternate location.

Food Restrictions and Allergies

When planning meals, we will try to provide appropriate foods for those with special

diets due to allergies and food sensitivities. However, please know that you are always welcome to bring your own meal to substitute any meal that is provided by the UA Bands. We will make sure that all the restrictions you placed on your [June Survey](#) are accommodated.

Wind Ensemble and Wind Symphony

Don't forget that auditions for the fall 2021 concert bands will take place **Saturday, August 21st** and **Sunday, August 22nd** in the Epley Band Building. Membership in the concert bands is open to all students, regardless of major.

Wind Ensemble (Knighten)

Rehearsal times: MWF, 12:55 – 2:15

Course Number: MUEN 1691, 2691, 3691, 4691, 4861

Wind Symphony (Lorenzo)

Rehearsal times: MWF, 12:55 – 2:15

Course Number: MUEN 1461, 2461, 3461, 4461, 5461

Complete audition information and audition excerpts have been posted in the “Band Members Only” section at bands.uark.edu. You may access this section by using your UARK username and password.

Please contact [Dr. Knighten](#) if you have questions about auditions.

Scholarships

For students receiving a scholarship - do not expect the award to post to your UAConnect account until at least the first week of school. No late fees will be assessed to your account for a balance that a scholarship in process will cover.

Make sure at this time that **you are enrolled** in the proper courses so your scholarship disbursement is not delayed. If you have any questions about your scholarship requirements, please reach out to [JR Hinkson](#).



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