



March 1, 2018

Friends,

Welcome to the **35TH SEASON OF THE VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY BLAZIN' BRIGADE MARCHING BAND!**

As a member of Blazin' Brigade, you are invited to share in the *foot-and-a-half* experience which is guaranteed to each member who belongs to our organization. This *foot-and-a-half* of prime real estate on our field belongs to *you* as a reminder of our commitment to music and our appreciation of the tradition upheld by Blazin' Brigade. By joining Blazin' Brigade, you have committed yourself to be a part of one of the deepest held and most valued traditions at Valdosta State University. *You will have opportunities not available to other students.*

BAND CAMP KICKOFF IS SUNDAY, AUGUST 5. We do not limit the number of students we accept into the program. Our members are actively engaged in making positive contributions to Blazin' Brigade and the university community.

Blazin' Brigade is a spirit organization and a university course, so the musical demands of our organization are highly valued. We want you to be successful, so we provide opportunities for you to receive instruction from faculty, student leaders, and graduate assistants throughout the season.

If you have additional questions, first check our website at <http://blazinbrigade.org>. Please do not hesitate to get in touch.

We look forward to having everyone be a part of the team this year; this will be one of the best experiences you will have in your collegiate career!

Go Blazers!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Benjamin Harper'.

Dr. Benjamin Harper
Director of Athletic Bands
Valdosta State University
(229) 249-4965
bgharper@valdosta.edu

IMPORTANT SUMMER DATES

APRIL 28	Guard and Blazettes Auditions <i>More information at blazinbrigade.org</i>
MAY 12	Drumline and Front Ensemble Auditions <i>More information at blazinbrigade.org</i>
JUNE 22-24	Blazin' Brigade Drumline Camp <i>Required for all drumline and front ensemble members; more information at blazinbrigade.org</i>
JULY 6	Priority deadline to order required team gear for arrival by Band Camp
AUGUST 4	Drumline, front ensemble, guard, and Blazettes rehearsals begin
AUGUST 5	Dorms open for full band, check-in, and evening meetings
AUGUST 6-11	BAND CAMP
AUGUST 10	Last day to order required team gear for arrival before the first home game
AUGUST 13	First day of classes

MEMBERSHIP CHECKLIST

✓ **Fill out the online registration form: <http://register.blazinbrigade.org>**

We collect this information, like your instruments, dietary needs, etc., as a part of running a large band program. *You must fill out the online registration form as soon as possible to make sure you receive all communications!*

✓ **Register for Blazin' Brigade: MUSC 3880 (CRN 80564, 1 credit, MW 4:00-5:50 PM, F 3:00-4:50 PM)**

Since Blazin' Brigade is a university course, everyone must sign up for the class. Additional information is available in the class registration guide later in this packet. Take this information when you see your advisor. If you have questions, please contact the band office immediately!

✓ **New this year: the band fee may post to your university bill (*in progress*)**

The \$55 band fee helps offset many costs, including equipment maintenance. This fee does not cover your required team gear. Returning members: this means you will not have to pay your fee by cash or check.

✓ **Purchase additional items you will need**

Woodwinds and brass will need to furnish your own lyre and flip folder with at least 20 sheets. *Brass: we do not use flip folders or lyres that mount onto our instruments.* You should be able to purchase these through your local music store. Percussion will provide your own sticks/mallets and a black, three-ring binder with plastic page protectors.

✓ **Early dorm move-in: Sunday, August 6, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM**

When you fill out the online registration form, you will let us know if you are moving in early. Drumline, front ensemble, guard, and Blazettes will need to find accommodations to arrive early in Valdosta for your required rehearsals that begin Saturday, August 4. Staff and drum majors begin on Thursday, August 2; section leaders on Friday, August 3. Unfortunately, we cannot do dorm move-in any earlier. Breakfast will be provided by VSU Bands beginning Saturday, August 4, through the start of regular dining services. Lunch and dinner are your responsibility.

ONLINE REGISTRATION GUIDE

Go to <http://register.blazinbrigade.org> to fill out the online registration form as soon as possible. *This does not register you for MUSC 3880. See the class registration guide below.*

This will take you approximately 15 minutes to complete if you have the following:

- Your basic contact information (name, phone, etc.)
- Contact information for at least one person you want us to contact in case of emergency
- Additional information on dietary or medical concerns we should know about

If your information changes, you can contact the band office or correct it at Band Camp when you check-in.

CLASS REGISTRATION GUIDE

Blazin' Brigade is a university course and **all members of Blazin' Brigade must register for MUSC 3880**. Speak with your advisor about making sure Blazin' Brigade is on your schedule. If any questions arise, please do not hesitate to contact us!

Register as soon as possible! Incoming students will register during summer orientation. Please attend the earliest orientation session you can; you will have a better opportunity to take the classes you want/need at the times that are most convenient for you.

COURSE: MUSC 3880

CRN: 80564

1 credit hour – MW 4:00-5:50 PM, F 3:00-4:50 PM

CLASS CONFLICTS

Class conflicts are handled on a case-by-case basis. If the conflicting class is an elective or offered another semester, it does not qualify for you to receive an exemption.

Work/job, club, Greek, etc., conflicts are not acceptable. *By joining Blazin' Brigade, you have committed yourself to be a part of one of the most valued traditions at Valdosta State University. You will have opportunities not available to other students.*

1. The class conflict form will be sent out during band camp and is due on Friday, August 10, at 5:00 PM. You will need to provide:
 - Class title, course number, CRN, meeting dates and times
 - Reason for the conflict
2. If approved, you may be required to fill out a form with the university to approve your class conflict.

DRUMLINE, FRONT ENSEMBLE, GUARD, BLAZETTES, LEADERSHIP

Leadership meetings start **Friday, August 3**. Rehearsals for drumline, front ensemble, guard, and Blazettes begin on **Saturday, August 4**.

You will need to find accommodations to arrive early in Valdosta for these required rehearsals. Unfortunately, we cannot do dorm move-in any earlier. Breakfast will be provided by VSU Bands beginning Saturday, August 4, through the start of regular dining services. Lunch and dinner are your responsibility.

NEW THIS YEAR: REQUIRED TEAM GEAR

After many requests from students, required apparel will be available for you to order online. This means we had to switch styles of shirts and ball caps. This online resource will allow you to order as many band t-shirts, gloves, spats, etc., as you want. The band does not make a profit on the items you order; we try to keep costs as reasonable as possible.

Returning members will need to order anything marked as *new this year* to meet uniform standards. All members need at least one of each item marked "Required," but you may want to order more (we recommend at least two t-shirts and multiple pairs of gloves). Not all items have to be purchased through the gear website. *Note: some items are required during band camp week (t-shirt, spats, ball cap, black shorts, black calf-length socks, black shoes).*

Website: <http://gear.blazinbrigade.org>

Ordering opens: April 15, 8:00 AM; you will not receive your order until Band Camp

Priority deadline: July 6, 11:59 PM, to have your items arrive by Band Camp

Last order deadline: August 10, 11:59 PM, to have your items arrive before the first home game

Items ordered by the priority deadline and the last order deadline will be shipped to the Band House and delivered to you at rehearsal or you will be notified it is ready for pick-up. You will still be able to order after August 10, but it will be very expensive to cover single-item screen printing, embroidery, and shipping costs.

These items are available only on our store:

Item	Woodwinds	Brass	Percussion	Guard/Blazettes
T-shirt (\$15) <i>New this year</i>	Required	Required	Required	Required
Spats (\$10) <i>New this year</i>	Required	Required	Required	Required
Hat (\$20) <i>New this year</i>	Required	Required for trumpets, mellophones, trombones, baritones	Required	
Headband (\$9) <i>New this year</i>		Required for sousaphones only		Required
Jacket/pants (\$45/\$35)				Required; returners may use last year's

Some of these items are available on our store, but may be purchased elsewhere:

Item	Woodwinds	Brass	Percussion	Guard/Blazettes
White long-wristed cotton gloves	Required (clarinets order fingerless gloves)	Required		
Black athletic shorts	Required	Required	Required	Required
Black calf-length socks	Required	Required	Required	Required
Black marching shoes	Required	Required	Required	
Dance shoes				Required
Skin-toned base layer				Required

BAND CAMP SCHEDULE

All events during Band Camp are required. Drumline, front ensemble, guard, and Blazettes will have separate schedules for August 4-5. Leadership will have separate schedules for August 3-5.

SUNDAY AUGUST 5

Dorms are open for move-in 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Dining services open.

2:00-5:00 PM	Check-in <i>Confirm personal information, instrument check-out, and apparel distribution</i>	Lobby, Fine Arts Building
4:00 PM	Clarinet, trumpet, trombone auditions <i>Music for part assignment auditions will be available May 1; specific room assignments will be available at check-in</i>	2nd Floor, Fine Arts Building
5:00 PM	Dinner break	
6:00 PM	Returns Meeting	Whitehead Auditorium
6:30 PM	All Members Meeting	Whitehead Auditorium
7:00-9:00 PM	Music Rehearsal	Whitehead Auditorium

MONDAY AUGUST 6

8:00 AM	Rehearsal	Reams Field
12:00 PM	Lunch break	
1:30 PM	Rehearsal	Fine Arts Building
4:00 PM	Dinner break	
6:00-9:00 PM	Rehearsal	Reams Field

TUESDAY AUGUST 7

8:00 AM	Rehearsal	Reams Field
12:00 PM	Lunch break	
1:30 PM	Rehearsal	Fine Arts Building
4:00 PM	Dinner break	
7:00 PM	CONVOCATION <i>Wear "Sunday Church" attire (khaki pants, collared shirts, dresses/skirts, etc.)</i>	Student Union Theater

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 8

8:00 AM	Rehearsal	Reams Field
12:00 PM	Lunch break	
1:30 PM	New students meet with Dean Pearce <i>All others have the afternoon off to buy books, find classrooms, follow-up on financial aid, etc.</i>	Whitehead Auditorium
6:00-9:00 PM	Rehearsal	Reams Field

THURSDAY AUGUST 9

Wind Ensemble auditions

8:00 AM	Rehearsal	Reams Field
12:00 PM	Lunch break	
1:30 PM	Rehearsal	Fine Arts Building
4:00 PM	Dinner break	
6:00-9:00 PM	Rehearsal	Reams Field

FRIDAY, AUGUST 10

8:00 AM	Rehearsal	Reams Field
12:00 PM	Lunch break	
1:30 PM	Rehearsal	Fine Arts Building
4:00 PM	Dinner break	
7:00 PM	SECTION NIGHT	

SATURDAY AUGUST 11

VSO auditions

9:00 AM-12:00 PM	GAME DAY REHEARSAL <i>Wear your band t-shirt and hat, mid-calf length black socks, black shoes, spats, black athletic shorts, and white gloves</i>	Bazemore-Hyder Stadium
-------------------------	--	-------------------------------

FALL 2018 BLAZIN' BRIGADE SCHEDULE

A final schedule will be issued on the first day of class. Required events are in **bold**.

Date	Event	Notes
June 22-24	Drumline Camp	Required for percussion
August 2	Staff and drum major meetings	Required for staff and drum majors
August 3-4	Leadership Camp	Required for leadership and staff
August 4	Percussion, guard, Blazettes rehearsals begin	Required for percussion, guard, Blazettes
August 5-11	Band Camp	See separate schedule
August 25, tentative	Meet the Blazers	10:00 AM (estimated)
August 31	Valwood vs. Notre Dame	7:00 PM
September 1	Stadium rehearsal	9:00-11:00 AM
September 1	VSU vs. Albany State	Home game
September 7	Valwood vs. North Florida Christian	7:00 PM
September 8	VSU vs. Ft. Valley State	Away trip (day)
September 15	Exhibition performance (GMEA District 2; Cairo HS)	Away trip (day)
September 22	Stadium rehearsal	9:00-11:00 AM
September 22	VSU vs. Shorter (Game Day Experience)	Home game
September 25	Exhibition performance (Southern Open; Valdosta)	Bazemore-Hyder Stadium
October 5	Valwood vs. Holy Spirit (Homecoming)	7:00 PM
October 6	Stadium rehearsal	9:00-11:00 AM
October 6	VSU vs. Delta State (Game Day Experience)	Home game
October 18	Homecoming Pep Rally	6:00 PM (estimated)
October 20	Homecoming Parade	11:00 AM (estimated)
October 20	VSU vs. North Greenville (Homecoming, Alumni Band)	Home game
October 26	Valwood vs. Brookwood	7:00 PM
November 1	Drum major, leadership, staff applications due	11:59:59 PM
November 2-4	VSU @ West Florida	Away trip (overnight)
November 5-9	Drum major, leadership, staff playing auditions	Outside of rehearsal
November 9	Valwood Playoffs	TBA
November 10	VSU vs. West Georgia (Senior Recognition)	Home game
November 12-16	Drum major, leadership interviews	By invitation
November 16	Band Banquet	University Center
November 16	Valwood Playoffs	TBA
November 17	Playoffs	TBA
November 19	Drum major, leadership music teaching auditions	By invitation
November 19-20	Staff interviews	By invitation
November 23	Valwood Playoffs	TBA
November 24	Playoffs	TBA
November 26-28	Drum major conducting auditions and 2nd interviews	By invitation
November 30	Valwood Playoffs	TBA
December 1	Playoffs	TBA
December 8	Playoffs	TBA
December 15	Championship Game (Kansas City, MO)	TBA

Updated April 11, 2018