

McNeese State University Regional High School Honor Band  
Thursday, February 29 - Saturday, March 2, 2024

Dear McNeese Honor Band Participant,

I am pleased to inform you of your selection for membership in the 2024 Regional High School Honor Bands, hosted by McNeese State University. You were selected from a field of well over 200 students from Louisiana and Texas nominated by their band directors.

Our 2024 clinicians are:

Gold Band **Dr. Cliff Croomes**, Associate Director of Bands at the University of Texas at Austin

Blue Band **Mr. Evan McCormick**, Director of Bands, Benton High School

You should plan to arrive at McNeese in Lake Charles on Thursday evening, February 29<sup>th</sup>, by 6:00 P.M. for check-in and chair placement auditions. Out-of-town students, directors and parent chaperones can be housed in nearby area hotels. All students staying in area hotels should be accompanied by their director or by a designated parent chaperone.

**Housing/Hotels:** For those coming from outside of Lake Charles, we have had good relationships with the following hotels (Note: There are multiple Comfort Inns, LaQuinta Inns and Holiday Inns in Lake Charles. Be specific in your request.):

Comfort Inn - Lake Charles  
607 E. Prien Lake Rd  
Lake Charles, LA 70601  
Phone: (337) 478-4650

LaQuinta Inn – Lake Charles  
1201 West Prien Lake Rd.  
Lake Charles, LA 70601  
Phone: (337) 478-9889

Hampton Inn  
3175 Holly Hill Rd.  
Lake Charles, LA 70601  
Phone: (337) 480-6443

Wingate Inn  
1731 W. Prien Lake Rd.  
Lake Charles, LA 70605  
Phone: 337-502-5112

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites  
2940 Lake St.  
Lake Charles, LA  
Phone: (337) 310-7700

Courtyard by Marriott  
2995 L'Auberge Blvd.  
Lake Charles, LA  
Phone: (337) 477-5020

Towne Place Suites by Marriott  
2985 L'Auberge Blvd.  
Lake Charles, LA 70601  
337-477-5824

Holiday Inn Express & Suites South  
1150 W. Prien Lake Rd.  
Lake Charles, LA 70601  
337-564-687

Candlewood Suites South  
1105 W. Prien Lake Rd.  
Lake Charles, LA 70601  
337-478-8008

Staybridge Suites  
1100 W. Prien Lake Rd.  
Lake Charles, LA 70601  
337-477-7474

Tru by Hilton  
1220 W. Prien Lake Rd.  
Lake Charles, LA 70601  
337-564-6878

Home2Suites  
1200 W. Prien Lake Rd.  
Lake Charles, LA 70601  
337-990-5330

## Schedule

|                     |                  |                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thurs., February 29 | 6:00 – 8:30 P.M. | Check-In & Placement Auditions – MSU Band Hall<br>McNeese entrance & scholarship auditions                                                                                  |
| Friday, March 1     |                  |                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                     | 8:15 A.M.        | Participants report to campus<br>Blue Band – Band Hall<br>Gold Band - Tritico Theater                                                                                       |
|                     | 8:30-11:30       | Rehearsals                                                                                                                                                                  |
|                     | 11:30            | Lunch on your own                                                                                                                                                           |
|                     | 1:00-2:30        | Rehearsals                                                                                                                                                                  |
|                     | 2:45-3:45        | Master Classes<br>Reeds                      TBA<br>Flutes                      Band 110<br>Brass                      Tritico<br>Percussion                      Band Room |
|                     | 4:00-4:30        | Jazz Band Concert/Recruiting Event – Tritico Theater                                                                                                                        |
|                     | 4:45-6:15        | Rehearsals                                                                                                                                                                  |
|                     | 6:15             | Travel to dinner with band guides from rehearsal location                                                                                                                   |
|                     | 6:30-7:30        | Dinner Provided by McNeese                                                                                                                                                  |
|                     | 7:30             | Meet in dining hall to travel to concert                                                                                                                                    |
|                     | 8:00             | McNeese Wind Symphony Concert                                                                                                                                               |
| Saturday, March 2   |                  |                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                     | 8:45             | Participants report to campus                                                                                                                                               |
|                     | 9:00-11:30       | Final Rehearsals                                                                                                                                                            |
|                     | 11:30            | Lunch on your own/Check out of hotels if needed                                                                                                                             |
|                     | 1:15             | Blue Band reports to stage/Gold Band report to band hall                                                                                                                    |
|                     | 1:50             | Gold Band report to Tritico for Blue Band concert                                                                                                                           |
|                     | 2:00             | Honor Band Concert                                                                                                                                                          |

**Concert Attire:** Concert attire is business casual to semi-formal. For example: Dress pants / polo shirt or collared shirt (with or without a tie) / (long) skirt or nice dress are all fine. We prefer no shorts/jeans/t-shirts.

**Meals:** Friday dinner is the only meal provided during the event. Several fast-food restaurants are within walking distance of campus.

**Registration:** Each student must complete our online registration form prior to January 26<sup>th</sup>. The form is located on our band website, and the link is <https://register.ryzer.com/camp.cfm?ID=263697>. A parent must pay the \$50 fee with a credit card when each student registers online, unless a band booster group or the school/school district is covering their fee with a group check. If this is the case, there is a check-option registration form. Students being covered by a group check *must still complete the check-option online registration form*. For a parent to pay an individual-student fee with a check, the parent must visit the McNeese band office in person (prior to January 26<sup>th</sup>). Unfortunately, we cannot accept individual checks through the mail.

**Band/Chair Placement Auditions:** These auditions will determine part and chair assignments within the two bands. The auditions will include:

- 2 major scales chosen from: Concert Gb, Db, Ab, Eb, Bb, F, C, G, D
- A chromatic scale
- Excerpts selected from the concert music (will be posted in mid-February)
- Sight Reading
- If you are a senior planning to major in *music education or music performance* and would like to use this as your audition for McNeese, you should bring one additional piece of music with you to perform in your audition – this can be all-state audition music, an etude, a solo or anything which can display your best playing.
- If you are a senior, planning to major in something other than music at McNeese and would like to use this as your McNeese audition, you do not need to bring an additional piece of music

Percussionists will meet at 6:30 P.M. Thursday evening to audition. Keyboard and snare parts will be included in the mailing we send to your director. Percussionists must bring a variety of sticks, keyboard mallets and timpani mallets.

If you are a senior percussionist and would like to use this as your audition for McNeese, please contact Dr. Lonny Benoit prior to the honor band weekend. He will provide you with audition information. [lbenoit@mcneese.edu](mailto:lbenoit@mcneese.edu)

CONGRATULATIONS AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON MARCH 2nd!

McNeese State University Band Office – 337-475-5004