

Band families,

Transitions are difficult. Transitions between band directors, especially when the outgoing band directors are as loved as Mr. Haynie and Ms. Wright, are the hardest. I know this because I personally had to say goodbye to students who I loved teaching just last week. While it was difficult, it was bittersweet, because I knew I was coming to start a wonderful new chapter here at San Augustine. You are a band program who I respect very much. You have accomplished so much in recent years, and I can feel the incredible family atmosphere that is apparent in this community. My goal is to continue your growth, success, and impact on the band community in East Texas and beyond. Mr. Haynie and I have been communicating all summer to ensure your continued success, and I have very high expectations for what this upcoming season and school year will bring.

My name is Paulette Tomlinson, and I am thrilled to be your new band director. I have been teaching band for ten years. I moved to the area last week from Tallahassee, Florida, where I was the Director of Bands at the Florida State University School, an educational research school governed by FSU. I ran a band program that is a lot like ours here at San Augustine. I have a Bachelor of Music degree in music education from Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina, and a Master of Music Education degree from Florida State University. I believe that band is a family, and belonging to a band family like the one at SA is one of the best things a student can do in high school. It's very important to me to continue learning and getting better each year, and I promise you that every time I walk into the band hall, I will strive to be a better teacher than I was the day before. I am also very excited to teach military style marching band!

I am so happy to be working with a wonderful assistant band director, Kaitlyn Pineiro. She comes to us from DeKalb High School in DeKalb, Texas. She has a Bachelor of Music degree in music education from Stephen F. Austin State University, and is currently working on her Master's degree. She has been teaching for six years, and has a great deal of experience with teaching in this area. Ms. Pineiro is a military marching expert, and is going to be a wonderful asset to our program!

We are really looking forward to getting to know you over the next few weeks. Next Wednesday, July 25, please drop by with your family for a "meet and greet" with some refreshments between 4 and 5pm!

Summer band will start with a week of full days - July 30-August 3 from 8am-4pm. Lunch will be provided through the school. The first day, July 30, will be for new members (8th grade, and anyone who has not previously marched in 9th-12th grades) and student leaders. Since we do not yet have an official student leadership team outside of our drum majors, we will be picking leaders through auditions, teaching demonstrations, and interviews over the weeks of summer band. Anyone with at least one year of experience is invited to try out for the leadership team. This leadership team will help with teaching and leading all year in addition to the drum majors and those who are voted to band council. If you are interested in being a part of the leadership team, please join us before the meet and greet on Wednesday, July 25 from 2-4pm. There, we can give you more information on the try out process and brainstorm ideas to make this season great. All prospective leaders should attend the first day of summer band (July 30) to teach the new members fundamentals.

ALL high school band members start on Tuesday July 31 at 8am. See the calendar for the rest of the summer schedule. Keep in mind that the calendar is subject to change! We will send an updated calendar home and post online very soon.

We have so many wonderful things planned for you, all while maintaining your wonderful San Augustine band traditions. I know that there are many of you wondering about how this year will be, and I can assure you that we are going to have a great time. If you are on the fence about returning, I ask you to come and meet us before you make a decision – you may be surprised! We are working on an AMAZING spring band trip for you, so stay tuned for details on that. I think you will love what we have planned! We are so excited to see you soon!

Sincerely,

Paulette Tomlinson, Band Director

Kaitlyn Pineiro, Assistant Band Director