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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE!**

The ISSMA Marching Band season steps off on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. This year's events will feature 170 Indiana High School Marching Bands participating in the Festival, Scholastic, or Open Class. The Festival Class is a non-competitive classification which places a greater emphasis on the musical aspects of the performance. The Scholastic Class was created in 2013 and takes into consideration band size as well as school enrollment. The Open Class is for those bands desiring to perform at the State Finals held at Lucas Oil Stadium by qualification through a Regional and Semi-state event. Scholastic Class and Open Class Bands receive an educational assessment in the performance and effectiveness of the music and visual aspects of their performance. All bands, regardless of classification, receive a Gold, Silver, Bronze, or Participation rating based upon their level of achievement.

Festival class events will be held at Southport and Crown Point High Schools on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Scholastic Class Prelims followed by the Open Class Invitational will be held on September 30<sup>th</sup> at Homestead H.S. in Ft. Wayne, Plymouth H.S., Whiteland Community H.S., and the Jerry Brewer Stadium in Jasper. Open Class Regionals will be held on October 7<sup>th</sup> at Carroll H.S. in Ft. Wayne, Lafayette Jefferson H.S., Center Grove H.S. in Greenwood, and Evansville Central H.S.

The top 32 Scholastic Class Bands receiving a Gold Rating and placing in the top 50% of the bands in their class at the Scholastic Prelims will perform at the Scholastic Finals on October 14<sup>th</sup> at Franklin Central H.S. in Indianapolis. The top 10 Open Class bands in a class at each Regional site will participate in the Open Class Semi-state to be held on October 21<sup>st</sup> at Franklin Community H.S. (Open D), Decatur Central H.S./Indianapolis (Open C), Pike H.S./Indianapolis (Open B), and Ben Davis H.S./Indianapolis (Open A). Admission at each event is \$10.00 for adults and \$7.00 for students and preschoolers.

A very special State Marching Band Finals will be held on October 28<sup>th</sup> at Lucas Oil Stadium. This year, ISSMA will be celebrating Indiana's 50<sup>th</sup> State Marching Band Finals. Since 1973, more than 200,000 students have participated, and more than a million spectators have watched, while some of the finest bands in the country compete to be crowned one of Indiana's State Champion Marching Bands. Admission is \$25.00 for adults and \$20.00 for students and preschoolers.

ISSMA is proud to welcome Music Travel Consultants as the sponsor for all Marching Band Events, as well as State Finals Events for Show Choir and Concert Organizations. In addition, ISSMA recognizes Paige's Music as the supporting sponsor for all ISSMA State Finals Events. ISSMA acknowledges Band Shoppe and Vincennes University as supporting sponsors of the 2023 State Marching Band Finals. ISSMA would also like to thank the American Dairy Association Indiana and Prairie Farms Dairy for presenting a \$1,000 "Winners Drink Milk" scholarship to a student from each of the four State Champion Bands.

Composite schedules for each Festival, Scholastic Prelims, Open Invitational and Open Regional site are now available on our website at: [www.issma.net](http://www.issma.net)

Please check this website for updated schedules and results throughout the marching season.