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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE !**

The 39<sup>th</sup> annual ISSMA Marching Band season steps off with District Festivals on October 1<sup>st</sup> at seven Indiana sites, and two Non-Competitive Festival sites on October 8<sup>th</sup>.

168 high school bands with over 16,000 students will participate in these performances sponsored annually by the Indiana State School Music Association, Inc. and their corporate sponsor The Indiana Dairy Farmers.

Those bands reaching a predetermined score at District will advance to Regional events held at four locations on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Bands enter in Class A, B, C and D according to the size of school with Class A being the largest.

The top twenty scoring bands in each of the four classes from the Regional sites will meet at four Semi-State sites in the Indianapolis area on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, to determine the 10 bands in each class that will participate in the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual State Marching Band Finals. This year's Finals will be held on October 29<sup>th</sup> at the Lucas Oil Stadium, where the four State Champion bands will be crowned.

The Indiana Dairy Farmers, corporate sponsors of Indiana State School Music Association, Inc. events, will present a \$1,000 scholarship to a student from each of the four State Champion Bands.

A panel of out-of-state judges will evaluate the bands on Music and Visual captions at each event. At the District level, special trophies are presented in each of these categories.

NOTE: The District Sites are: Penn/Mishawaka, Fort Wayne Homestead, Lewis Cass/Walton, Lawrence Central/Indianapolis, Plainfield, Columbus East, and Jasper. The Festival Sites are Franklin Community/Franklin and Jackson Field/South Bend. Regional Sites are Evansville Central, Center Grove/Greenwood, Lafayette Jefferson, and Chesterton. Semi-State will be held at Franklin Community, Decatur Central/Indianapolis, Pike/Indianapolis, and Ben Davis/Indianapolis. Admission at each event is \$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students and preschoolers.

Composite schedules for each District and Festival 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.

Please feel free to contact our office for any further information or clarification.

(Additional Press Releases for Regional, Semi-State, and State Finals will be forthcoming.)