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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE !**

The 46<sup>th</sup> annual ISSMA Marching Band season steps off on September 29<sup>th</sup>, with 176 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 High School and Crown Point High School on September 29<sup>th</sup>. The Scholastic Class Prelims followed by the Open Class Invitational will be held on October 6<sup>th</sup> at Homestead H.S. in Ft. Wayne, Plymouth H.S., Whiteland H.S., and Jasper H.S. Open Class Regionals will be held on October 13<sup>th</sup> at Chesterton H.S., Lafayette Jefferson H.S., Center Grove H.S. in Greenwood, and Evansville Central H.S.

Scholastic Class Bands receiving a Gold Rating at the Scholastic Prelims will perform at the Scholastic Finals on October 20<sup>th</sup> at Lawrence Central H.S. in Indianapolis. The top 10 Open Class bands at each Regional site will participate in the Open Class Semi-state to be held on October 27<sup>th</sup> at Franklin Community H.S. (Open D), Decatur Central/Indianapolis (Open C), Pike/Indianapolis (Open B), and Ben Davis/Indianapolis (Open A). Admission at each event is \$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students and preschoolers.

The State Marching Band Finals will be held on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at Lucas Oil Stadium, where the four State Champion bands will be crowned. Admission for the State Finals is \$20.00 for adults and \$18.00 for students and preschoolers.

ISSMA is proud to welcome Music Travel Consultants as the sponsor for all Marching Band events, and Paige's Music, Band Shoppe, and Balfour as supporting sponsors of the 2018 State Marching Band Finals. The Indiana Dairy Farmers and Prairie Farms Dairy will present 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.