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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE!

The 53rd ISSMA Marching Band season steps off on September 26th. This year's events will feature 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 Saturday, Sept. 26th. The Scholastic Class Prelims followed by the Open Class Invitational will be held on Saturday, Oct. 3rd at Homestead H.S./Ft. Wayne, Plymouth H.S., Whiteland Community H.S., and the Jerry Brewer Stadium/Jasper. Open Class Regionals will be held on Saturday, Oct. 10th at Carroll H.S./Ft. Wayne, Lafayette Jefferson H.S., Center Grove H.S./Greenwood, and Evansville North H.S.

The top 16 Scholastic Class bands from each class at the Scholastic Prelims will perform at the Scholastic Finals on Saturday, Oct. 17th at Franklin Central H.S./Indianapolis. The top 20 Open Class bands from across the 4 Regional sites will participate in the Open Class Semi-state to be held on Saturday, Oct. 24th 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 \$13.00 for adults and \$7.00 for students and preschoolers (under age 3 no charge).

The State Marching Band Finals will be held on Saturday, Nov. 7th at Lucas Oil Stadium, where the four State Class Champion bands will be crowned. Admission for the State Finals is \$30.00 for adults and \$25.00 for students and preschoolers (under age 3 no charge).

ISSMA is excited to welcome Paige's Music as the presenting sponsor of the 2026 ISSMA State Marching Band Finals. ISSMA is also proud to welcome Band Shoppe, Silent Command, and Music Travel Consultants as supporting sponsors and the American Dairy Association Indiana and Prairie Farms Dairy as sponsors of a \$1,000 "Winners Drink Milk" scholarship to be awarded 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

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