



O'Fallon Township High School
Panther Bands
600 S. Smiley Street
O'Fallon, IL 62269
618-632-3507 x272
www.othsband.com

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for participating in the 43rd annual Metro East Marching Classic. We have an impressive lineup scheduled, and we are excited to be hosting one of the kickoff events for the 2024 marching season. We would like to make this experience for you and your students a memorable one!

Please find the following information included in this Welcome Packet:

- Performance schedule
- General Information
- Judges information
- Judging criteria (including a sample judging sheet)
- Awards information
- Field information
- Map of OTHS and driving/parking directions
- MEMC Guidelines

If you have any questions, please contact me by email at gustafson-hindsm@oths.us or call/text at 618-304-6379.

Thanks again for marching with us! Best of luck to you and your students!

Melissa Gustafson-Hinds
Director of Bands

Philip Carter
Assistant Director of Bands

Matthew Murphy
Director of Percussion



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GENERAL INFORMATION

Expectations

O'Fallon Township High School is governed by their school policies. The Metro East Marching Classic will be following IHSA regulations of director responsibility for the care and behavior of their respective students, staff, and parents, item VI B. of the 2022-2023 Music Rules Book. Areas of the school open for our usage for this event are the parking lots at Weber, Weber practice fields, and the OTHS PAC (football stadium area inside gate). Bands will be escorted across the street from the warm-up area to the performance area. Thank you for keeping your students, staff, and parents safe on the OTHS School Property. In an emergency, please call Melissa Gustafson-Hinds, OTHS Band Director at 618-304-6379.

Performance & Judges' Critique

Your band will be given a total of 13 minutes to enter the field, perform, and exit. We would like you to use as much time as possible for your performance. For example, once your field show is completed, if you would like to play a stand-still of your music presentation to the audience, you may (not evaluated). There will be an OTHS Staff Member on the field to help with the timing of your performance. We will also reach out to you to clarify what you would like to present outside of your performance for evaluation. We will also have the opportunity for you to meet our judges and discuss your show. These times will be listed on the performance schedule.

Admission

Spectator entrance gate will open one hour before first performance.

Admission to the Metro East Marching Classic is as follows:

\$10.00 Adults

\$5.00 Children (5-12)

Free for children 4 and under

*Cash only – there will be an ATM machine available on site.

Physical and Music Warm-up

Your band will have access to a lined practice field to use for music and physical warm up for 20 minutes of rehearsal. You may use this time at your discretion (including the marching of your show). We ask that you be considerate of other bands warming up nearby as well as those performing.

Please Note: Your band will warm up in the designated warm up areas only. No unit may cross Weber Road to warm-up.



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Ready Gate

Your band will report to the Ready Gate on the northeast corner of the football field 10 minutes prior to your performance. Once you arrive at the Ready Gate, a MEMC staff member will give you further instructions on when you can enter the performance field. Pit and percussion equipment should enter the field from the northwest corner. Pit/percussion should arrive at this staging area 15 minutes prior to performance time.

Your band's exit will be in the northwest corner of the field. Our MEMC staff member will help direct your pit percussion and remaining band sections off the field. Please refer to entry and exit directions on the map provided. A water station will be available to all performers after exiting the gated area.

Parking

All buses and support vehicles will be parked in available areas along Weber road, behind the school, or in the southeast student lot. MEMC parking volunteers will be available for assistance. Due to parking limitations your buses and trucks will NOT be allowed to access the lot until 2 hours before your performance time (noted on schedule). Please understand that only buses and equipment trucks supporting the band will be allowed in the parking lot. Passenger cars must be parked in the spectator lot.

Hospitality

Upon arrival, each director will receive complimentary tickets in their packets for a free meal at the concession stand. Bus drivers will receive complimentary tickets as well.

Programs

Programs will be available for \$8.00 as you enter the stadium.

Band Classifications

Bands have been divided into classes based on school enrollment (not band size).

Awards

There will be **two Awards Presentations**. The first will feature awards for the bands in classes A and 2A. A second awards presentation will feature awards for the bands in classes 3A and 4A. At the conclusion of the exhibition performance by OTHS, trophies will be awarded **in each class** for the following:



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- Class Placement
- Outstanding Music
- Outstanding Visual
- Outstanding General Effect

Please instruct your Drum Major(s) to meet at the South end of the stadium prior to the exhibition performance in order to prepare for the awards presentation.

Upon Your Arrival

Go to the check in booth located at the edge of the Weber parking lot. You will receive your school packet with entry wrist bands. All Directors, staff, and students will be issued a wrist band that must be worn for entrance to the stadium. You will also be greeted by your student band guides who are there to assist you until your performance is completed. If you need anything, please let one of the guides know, and we will try to accommodate your needs.

Concessions

The concession area is available for the entire contest. Concession stands are located at both ends of the main stands. If needed an additional concession stand may be available as well on the visitor side of the field to provide for student demand.

NOTE: You can place a preorder and delivery time for concessions if you would like to provide meals for your band. Please indicate these requirements in the google document link provided.

Student Seating

Please ask your students to sit on the visiting team bleachers after performing to watch the rest of the bands. The main bleachers need to be available for paying attending (the parents!). No student will be allowed on the main side of the bleachers unless they are paying members of the public.



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Weather

In case of inclement weather (which, of course, will NOT happen), the contest will move indoors to the OTHS Panther Dome. The gymnasium is large enough to accommodate each band with seating for audience members. The area is also large enough for **limited** visual movement. Each band will be adjudicated in music general effect, music ensemble, color guard, and percussion.

The show WILL go on – rain or shine. In the event of a continuous downpour, the show will move indoors. A decision will be made prior to the beginning of the contest and all Directors will be notified.

Field Information

- Hash marks – standard high school hash marks
- Yard markers will be available.
- Field Entry – Bands enter the performance area from the northeast corner of the field. Pit will enter from the northwest corner.
- Field Exit – Your band will exit from the northwest corner of the football field, similar exit of pit and props. We will have staff to regulate this area in transition.
- AC Outlets – An extension cord will be provided at the 50 yard line
- Golf carts and tractors – Golf carts and tractors are NOT allowed on the field. All vehicles must remain on the track when loading and unloading equipment.

Time Limit

Bands will be allowed a **total of 13 minutes on the field**. This time includes warm-up, set-up, performance, and exiting the field. An OTHS Field Staff Coordinator will be on the field to assist with timing of your performance and directions.

Entry/Exit Cadence

As you enter or exit the field, you may play taps as needed.

Flammable Devices

No fire or explosives are permitted.



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Wireless PA Systems

Please do not use wireless PA systems during your warm-ups. They may interfere with our stadium sound system.

Penalties

We are planning to run a smooth festival with no issuance of penalties.

Copyright Clearance

Please inform us of your copyright clearance.

Judging Information

The Metro East Marching Classic utilizes a Bands of America scoring system. The scoring system places 60% of the value on music performance ensemble and music effect. 40% of the score value is based on visual ensemble and visual effect. Designated judges will also award the percussion and color guard awards for best in class. (as noted below) . We will be using Competition Suite for all score reporting and audio commentary.

The judges for the Metro East Marching Classic are as follows:

Visual Ensemble - Jackie Gilley – Bands of America, Judge

Visual Individual- Brent Johnson – Murray State University, Director

Visual General Effect - Jordan Lalama – Bands of America, Clinician

Music Individual - Chris Romanowski - International Percussion Arranger, Clinician
and Judge

Music General Effect - Jeff Huffman – Avon High School, Avon, Indiana

Music Ensemble - Mike Davis – Bands of America, Judge

Judging Rubrics

We are utilizing BOA score sheets and Competition Suite.



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Video Taping

A video recording of your performance will be provided at the conclusion of the awards ceremony via Competition Suite. **Due to limited press box space, we will not be allowing additional video coverage by a parent or staff member in this area.**

Conclusion

At the conclusion of the award announcements, all directors should report to the school auditorium to meet with the judges for their critique session. (time listed on schedule)

Map and Directions

See attached map for onsite parking and band flow directions.

Travelling from the West

Take Interstate 64 East to Exit 16 (Greenmount Rd).

Turn left and end of ramp

Travel north on Greenmount approx ½ mile (CVS on right), turn right at light (Hwy 50)

Travel east on Hwy 50 approx. 2.6 miles.

Turn left on Weber Rd. (immediately past the football field)

Bus parking lot will be on the right.

Travelling from the East

Take Interstate 64 West to Exit 19

Turn right and end of ramp

Travel north on Scott Troy Rd 1/4mile. Turn left at light onto Hwy 50

Travel west on Hwy 50 (approx. 2 miles)

Turn right on Weber Rd. (immediately before the football field)

Bus parking lot will be on the right.