



THE NORMAL MARCHING BAND

Illinois State Marching Band Championships

OCTOBER 17, 2026

This Event

The Illinois State Marching Band Championships include 42 bands in the Preliminary Competition. The top bands from prelims perform again in the evening’s Finals Competition. The NMB performs in Prelims Session C, which includes a randomized schedule of 5A and 6A bands. The first place bands in both 5A and 6A automatically advance to finals, and the next 5 highest scores in Session C, regardless of classification, advance as well. *Note: The finals schedule is determined through a combination of band classification, prelims scoring, and random drawing. If the NMB qualifies for Finals, the performance will take place after 7:55 PM.*

What to wear

Dress for rehearsal. Remember your white socks, gloves, marching shoes, and appropriate garments for under your uniform. **As the weather gets cooler, especially at night, all layers must be compression garments that fit as tightly as your body suit. No sweats or bulky clothing.** Remember to remove nail polish and bring hair products. Please refrain from wearing makeup, ensure you are clean-shaven and remove jewelry.

Meals

Eat a healthy breakfast/lunch before arriving. Performers will have a snack break before Prelims, and a third of a gondola will be provided between prelims and finals. Based on the length of the day, we are discouraging section restaurant breakfasts, but lunch at a reasonable time is OK... be rested so you can be at your best all day. (We wrap up at about 11 PM.)

Spectator Info

The Illinois State Marching Band Championships are held in ISU’s Hancock Stadium and are hosted by the Illinois State University Bands. Hancock Stadium has a clear bag policy, with a maximum size of 12” x 6” x 12” or a non-clear clutch purse no larger than 4.5” x 6.5”.

Tickets are \$20 for all-day admission, including the Finals performances. Souvenirs are available for purchase at the event, and pre-ordered merchandise will be distributed that day.

To ensure safety, all fans and performers must cross College Ave. at the marked crosswalk.

For those unable to join us at ISU, *BOX 5 MEDIA is streaming the event live.*
[Click here to visit the BOX 5 TV website for live streaming information.](#)

A Note from the NMB Directors

It’s time for some big shows! We are very proud of your hard work this season, and we are looking forward to celebrating it as we share our show with a hometown audience and folks from all over Illinois! Remember to take good care of yourself and represent the NMB at your very best, both on and off the field. Be sure to thank the parents for their hard work and be respectful of them – we couldn’t do this without them! Have a great time, work hard, and perform well! Go, Team!

Itinerary

- 12:00 PM
- Pre-Show Rehearsal and Warm Up in KJHS Stadium**
The northeast parking lot, near the tower, is available to us today.
- 3:00 PM
- Rehearsal ends,** eat snacks, polish instruments, put on uniform, prepare for the show. We can store items and get ready in Arends Gym.
- 4:30 PM
- Dressed and ready for the performance!** Line up on the track. Drum Majors/Staff will do uniform inspection. (Have you removed your jewelry?)
- 4:40 PM
- Front Ensemble depart for Warm Up Area A** (see map)
- 4:45 PM
- Arc/Last Minute Warm Up at KJHS** (Woodwinds, Brass, Battery, and Guard will warm up at KJHS instead of using the ISU warm up areas)
- 5:00 PM
- Front Ensemble Warm Up in Percussion Area A** (until 5:28 PM)
- 5:15 PM
- Guard, Woodwinds, Battery, Brass line up**
- 5:20 PM
- Depart KJHS for the Northwest Gate** – head around the west side of the fieldhouse
- 5:38 PM
- Ready at Northwest Gate**
- 5:48 PM
- NMB Performance in the Illinois State MB Championships Prelims – Go, Team!**

All performers and props/equipment enter the field from the Northwest Gate—back sideline on Side 2. Everything exits through the Southwest Gate—back sideline on Side 1. Drum Majors remain at ISU for Prelims Awards

Following our performance, the NMB will return to KJHS and change out of uniform. *A small gondola will be provided in case we have a quick turnaround for a finals performance.*

Meet in the gym to watch awards/announcement of finalists

We will share instructions for the rest of the day at the end of awards.

IF THE NMB QUALIFIES TO PERFORM IN FINALS

Next steps will be determined based on our performance time. Finals performances begin at 7:00 PM. The first few performances are finalists from Classes 1A-4A. If we are scheduled to perform early, we may need to change into uniform quickly, and we will likely remain at KJHS and ISU until we perform. Remain calm, conserve energy, and make good choices. *(Being both excited and tired makes for a tricky combination!)* If we perform late in finals, specific instructions will be shared depending on the timing.

IF THE NMB DOES NOT QUALIFY TO PERFORM IN FINALS

You are welcome to return to the stadium and watch Finals, or you are dismissed after instructions are done being given at KJHS.



ILLINOIS STATE MARCHING BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

October 17, 2026

2026 PRELIMS Performance Schedule

Daily Order	Class	School	Warm-Up Area	Depart for Warm-Up / Ready	Begin Physical Warmup	Begin Music Warmup	Leave Warm-Up / to Gate	Ready at No'West Gate	Show Time
SESSION A			(total 1:16)	(0:14)	(0:14)	(0:28)	(0:10)	(0:10)	
1	1A & 2A Random Draw	Tri-Valley	(field)	5:50 AM	6:04 AM	6:18 AM	6:46 AM	6:56 AM	7:06 AM
2		Prairie Central	B	6:04 AM	6:18 AM	6:32 AM	7:00 AM	7:10 AM	7:20 AM
3		Morris Community	A	6:18 AM	6:32 AM	6:46 AM	7:14 AM	7:24 AM	7:34 AM
4		Eureka	B	6:32 AM	6:46 AM	7:00 AM	7:28 AM	7:38 AM	7:48 AM
5		IVC	A	6:46 AM	7:00 AM	7:14 AM	7:42 AM	7:52 AM	8:02 AM
6		Limestone Community	B	7:00 AM	7:14 AM	7:28 AM	7:56 AM	8:06 AM	8:16 AM
7		University	A	7:14 AM	7:28 AM	7:42 AM	8:10 AM	8:20 AM	8:30 AM
8		El Paso Gridley	B	7:28 AM	7:42 AM	7:56 AM	8:24 AM	8:34 AM	8:44 AM
		break 14'							8:58 AM
9		Morton	A	7:56 AM	8:10 AM	8:24 AM	8:52 AM	9:02 AM	9:12 AM
10		Paris	B	8:10 AM	8:24 AM	8:38 AM	9:06 AM	9:16 AM	9:26 AM
11			A	8:24 AM	8:38 AM	8:52 AM	9:20 AM	9:30 AM	9:40 AM
12		Galesburg	B	8:38 AM	8:52 AM	9:06 AM	9:34 AM	9:44 AM	9:54 AM
13		Macomb	A	8:52 AM	9:06 AM	9:20 AM	9:48 AM	9:58 AM	10:08 AM
14		LaSalle-Peru Township	B	9:06 AM	9:20 AM	9:34 AM	10:02 AM	10:12 AM	10:22 AM
15		Pontiac Township	A	9:20 AM	9:34 AM	9:48 AM	10:16 AM	10:26 AM	10:36 AM
16		Herschler	B	9:34 AM	9:48 AM	10:02 AM	10:30 AM	10:40 AM	10:50 AM
	break+awards 20'								11:04 AM
SESSION B									
1	3A & 4A Random Draw	Rock Island	A	10:08 AM	10:22 AM	10:36 AM	11:04 AM	11:14 AM	11:24 AM
2		Buffalo Grove	B	10:22 AM	10:36 AM	10:50 AM	11:18 AM	11:28 AM	11:38 AM
3		Marian Catholic	A	10:36 AM	10:50 AM	11:04 AM	11:32 AM	11:42 AM	11:52 AM
4		Elk Grove	B	10:50 AM	11:04 AM	11:18 AM	11:46 AM	11:56 AM	12:06 PM
5		Batavia	A	11:04 AM	11:18 AM	11:32 AM	12:00 PM	12:10 PM	12:20 PM
6		Bloomington	B	11:18 AM	11:32 AM	11:46 AM	12:14 PM	12:24 PM	12:34 PM
		break 14'							12:48 PM
7		Romeoville	A	11:46 AM	12:00 PM	12:14 PM	12:42 PM	12:52 PM	1:02 PM
8		Alton	B	12:00 PM	12:14 PM	12:28 PM	12:56 PM	1:06 PM	1:16 PM
9		Lemont	A	12:14 PM	12:28 PM	12:42 PM	1:10 PM	1:20 PM	1:30 PM
10		Collinsville	B	12:28 PM	12:42 PM	12:56 PM	1:24 PM	1:34 PM	1:44 PM
11		DeKalb	A	12:42 PM	12:56 PM	1:10 PM	1:38 PM	1:48 PM	1:58 PM
	break+awards 20'								2:12 PM
SESSION C									
1	5A & 6A Random Draw	Belleville East	B	1:16 PM	1:30 PM	1:44 PM	2:12 PM	2:22 PM	2:32 PM
2		Naperville Central	A	1:30 PM	1:44 PM	1:58 PM	2:26 PM	2:36 PM	2:46 PM
3		McHenry Community	B	1:44 PM	1:58 PM	2:12 PM	2:40 PM	2:50 PM	3:00 PM
4		Oswego East	A	1:58 PM	2:12 PM	2:26 PM	2:54 PM	3:04 PM	3:14 PM
5		Plainfield North	B	2:12 PM	2:26 PM	2:40 PM	3:08 PM	3:18 PM	3:28 PM
6		O'Fallon Township	A	2:26 PM	2:40 PM	2:54 PM	3:22 PM	3:32 PM	3:42 PM
7		Victor J. Andrew	B	2:40 PM	2:54 PM	3:08 PM	3:36 PM	3:46 PM	3:56 PM
8		Oswego	A	2:54 PM	3:08 PM	3:22 PM	3:50 PM	4:00 PM	4:10 PM
		break 14'							4:24 PM
9		Lake Park	B	3:22 PM	3:36 PM	3:50 PM	4:18 PM	4:28 PM	4:38 PM
10		Warren Township	A	3:36 PM	3:50 PM	4:04 PM	4:32 PM	4:42 PM	4:52 PM
11		Harry D. Jacobs	B	3:50 PM	4:04 PM	4:18 PM	4:46 PM	4:56 PM	5:06 PM
12		Joliet West	A	4:04 PM	4:18 PM	4:32 PM	5:00 PM	5:10 PM	5:20 PM
13		Prospect	B	4:18 PM	4:32 PM	4:46 PM	5:14 PM	5:24 PM	5:34 PM
14		Normal	A	4:32 PM	4:46 PM	5:00 PM	5:28 PM	5:38 PM	5:48 PM
15		Plainfield Central	B	4:46 PM	5:00 PM	5:14 PM	5:42 PM	5:52 PM	6:02 PM
	BRMM								6:16 PM
	awards+finalist announcements								6:30 PM
	break and reset 0:15								6:45 PM
v.0	First Band performs in Finals								7:00 PM

