

# **44th ANNUAL PANTHER MARCHING BAND FESTIVAL**

Welcome to the 44th Annual  
Eastern Illinois University  
Panther Marching Band Festival!

INFORMATION PACKET

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF  
EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY!

# **The 44th Annual Panther Marching Band Festival**

**On behalf of Eastern Illinois University, welcome to the 2021 Panther Marching Band Festival. Please direct any questions to David Boggs (dgboggs@eiu.edu) WE HOPE YOUR VISIT WILL BE ENJOYABLE AND REWARDING.**

It's time for the 44th Annual Panther Marching Band Festival! We sincerely hope that our invitational will be an enjoyable and educational experience for you and your band.

Contest assistance is being provided by The Music Shoppe, the members of Kappa Kappa Psi, Tau Beta Sigma, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and many members of the Panther Marching Band. We are grateful for their spirit of cheerful volunteerism.

## **CLASSIFICATION**

Classification is based on a hybrid system which varies from year to year depending on the natural breaks that occur when band and school enrollments are listed smallest to largest. IHSA Music Classifications are used to divide ensembles into five different classifications (D, C, B, A, AA). Ensembles are then divided by the natural breaks in band size. The IHSA classification and band size is then averaged together in a .83:1 ratio (because of five IHSA classes and six band classifications) and then classifications are formed. All classifications are within 1 point spread or less therefore ensuring the fairest possible mathematical average between both IHSA classification and band size classification. Please refer to the original tentative schedule to see the IHSA classification, number of students in the band and the average sum of both factored together. Let me know if you have any questions regarding the classifications. It's a rather complicated formula but works well overall.

To be honest, scheduling bands was a bit tricky this year due to how many conflicts there were with arrival times on campus. You can refer to the original tentative schedule to see all the requests. I did the best I could to accommodate everyone's needs so that every member of each band was able to be present and perform at the festival.

## **ADJUDICATION**

A panel of 8 judges will adjudicate the Festival:

- Music Performance - John Timmons – Sideline or Pressbox
- Music Performance - Marvin Battle - Pressbox
- Music General Effect – Dr. Mark Ponzio - Pressbox
- Visual Performance - Jeff Fiedler - Pressbox
- Visual General Effect - Keith Baker - Pressbox

- Percussion - Chris DeBerry – Sideline or Pressbox
- Color Guard - Brooke Wallace - Pressbox
- Drum Major - Molly Elvert – Sideline or Pressbox

Scoring for the Panther Marching Band Festival is 60% music and 40% visual. Each Performance and General Effect Caption will factor in to 20% of the overall scoring total. Our current plan is to e-mail adjudication sheets, recap sheets and adjudicator comments immediately after the festival in three separate e-mail so that you can disseminate these to your staff via e-mail. These will probably arrive within minutes of the conclusion of the awards.

## **AWARDS**

The following awards will be given in each Competitive Class: Class Ranking Trophy for each band in each class, Best Music (highest combined music performance score), Best Visual (highest visual performance score), Best General Effect (highest combined musical and visual effect score), Best Percussion, Best Auxiliary, and Best Drum Major awards. There will also be Best Soloist and Grand Champion awards presented at both the Small (1A/2A) and Large (3A/4A/5A) competitions.

Please have your drum majors/band representatives in uniform present to accept awards during the awards ceremonies taking place after each competition. We also request that they report to the south end-zone approximately 25 minutes prior to the awards ceremony so that they can assist the EIU Panther Marching Band with our flag presentation.

## **FESTIVAL HEADQUARTERS and DIRECTORS LOUNGE**

Festival Headquarters will be in the upper level of the press box. The Victory Suite will serve as the Directors Hospitality Lounge. There will be light snacks provided here throughout the day. We are still under rather strict Covid protocols here on campus so we will not be offering a buffet spread to our directors. We apologize for this but will do our best to provide you adequate pre-packaged refreshments for you.

## **ARRIVAL**

Plan to arrive at least 30-40 minutes prior to your warm-up time. Have buses, etc. use 4<sup>th</sup> Street to access the “W” (south) parking lot. Hold your students on the bus at this time. The closest restroom access will be Lawson Hall, the 9-story dorm directly east of the “W” parking lot or Lantz Gymnasium which is two blocks northwest of the “W” lot. ***Our hosts will be ready to receive the first bands at 10:30 am. Please email [dgboggs@eiu.edu](mailto:dgboggs@eiu.edu) if you must arrive earlier so we can be prepared!***

## **DIRECTIONS**

Take Interstate 57 to Exit 190A (Route 16 East) or take Route 130 to Route 16 West. Once in Charleston, take route 16 (Lincoln Ave) to 4<sup>th</sup> Street (on West side of campus) and head south. The “W” lot will be on the right just past the athletic fields. A map is provided for your convenience and we will have spotters attending to your buses on arrival.

### **CHECK-IN**

All directors need to check in upon your arrival at the Pond Pavilion next to the “W” lot. Members of the Panther Marching Band will meet each you and will serve as your guide for the event. Wristbands will be provided for admission for band members and additional wrist bands for parent helpers, one for every 10 members of your group. Please plan on purchasing additional parent tickets at the box office located at O'Brien Stadium. Three passes will be given to each director to view the festival from the press box. Due to space limitations, no extra passes will be available. The Press Box is for directors and staff only and may be limited based upon Covid protocols / distancing needs. When you check in we will have count out the number of passes allotted per the above to ensure that you have the exact number of parents / staff passes so that you are not delayed at the stadium.

### **BUS/TRUCK PARKING & STAFF VEHICLES**

***All buses & equipment trucks will enter 4<sup>th</sup> Street. See map for traffic flow & parking arrangements.*** We do not have space for staff/parent vehicles in this area. They may park by O'Brien Stadium or next to Stevenson Tower. Keep your students on the buses until you are met by your host EIU student.

### **PROP DROP-OFF AREA**

The walk to the stadium from the parking lot is a bit far so we are creating a prop drop-off area at the stadium. This would be an in-and-out drop-off location and you would NOT be able to leave the equipment vehicle there during the performance. You can access the area prior to your performance time to unload the props and can return to pick up props as soon as they are dismantled and ready to be loaded into the truck. The key to this area is keeping in mind that it is for loading and unloading ONLY. The lot is a gravel lot and it's VERY rough. Vehicles need to be moved ASAP to a remote parking area. Please e-mail me at [dgboggs@eiu.edu](mailto:dgboggs@eiu.edu) or call me at 618-567-3893 if this is something you would like to consider.

### **DRESSING FACILITIES**

There are no dressing facilities so plan accordingly. As a suggestion, we have our band wear gym shorts and a T-shirt under our uniforms to facilitate dressing near the buses. You may wish to consider this to avoid delays.

### **TICKETS**

Adults \$10.00; Students and Senior Citizens \$5.00. Children 5 and under are free. Festival Programs will be available for \$5.00. **Cash and check only.**

## **PHYSICAL WARM-UP AREAS**

Each band may use the physical warm-up area located to the west of the "W" lot. There is plenty of space west of the 'A' and 'B' warm-up fields for silent stretching prior to your music warm-up.

## **MUSIC WARM-UP AREAS**

Each band will be allowed a music warm-up period of 40 minutes. Please be prompt. The schedule cannot permit early warm-up. Please face South to ensure that sound does not disrupt the band performing in O'Brien Stadium. Warm-up areas include the 'A' and 'B' fields west of the 'W' Lot and the United Methodist Church parking lot (warm-up 'C'). A map has been included for your convenience and reference. Long Rangers and other P. A. equipment may not be used during the festival. The sound carries to the stadium and infringes on other competing bands. Please plan accordingly.

## **WARM-UP TO/FROM STADIUM TRANSIT AFTER 7:15 P.M.**

For the safety of all participants we ask that all bands use the 4<sup>th</sup> Street sidewalk to walk on to and from the stadium after 7:00 p.m. The pathway between the pond and rugby field have no lighting so I don't want students to be placed in a potentially unsafe location from a visibility standpoint. Pit equipment should be able to use these paths as I would assume that your vehicle will have lights.

## **ENTRANCE & EXIT FROM THE FIELD**

Bands will enter the stadium via the Southeast gate (**backfield side 2**) and will exit from the Southwest gate (**front of field on side 2**). As one band exits the field, the following band will enter. ***Following your performance, you may pass in review in front of the Home side from North to South along the front portion of the Track.*** This will help eliminate traffic jams at the gate. Please be careful not to use vehicles that might damage our field/track. **Motorized vehicles are not allowed on the field.**

All pit crews will remain at the Southwest gate while the previous band completes its performance. Approximately 8 minutes before your band begins competition, your pit percussion will be brought to a staging area on the track. Please do not disturb the competing band. Lawn Tractors and ATV's are acceptable for moving your equipment. **\*\*\*\*LARGE TRACTORS AND AUTOMOBILES ARE NOT ALLOWED ON THE TRACK PER UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS\*\*\*\***

## **PERFORMANCE**

Each band is allotted 15 minutes to enter the field, warm-up on the field, perform your show and exit the field. All cadences must cease when you leave the field. Use of pyrotechnics, pressurized canisters, flammable materials, and other hazardous substances is expressly forbidden. Additionally, the discharge of

firearms will not be permitted. A .5 point/per minute penalty will be assessed to any group going over 15 minutes.

### **EMERGENCY MEDICAL NEEDS**

If a major emergency occurs we will call for an ambulance ASAP. Safety of our guests is our highest concern so please realize that if someone passes out or has symptoms which are outside the norm we will err on the side of keeping our guests safe by calling for an ambulance. We do not have the staffing to treat minor issues such as cuts, bee stings, and minor sprains. Please have your staff and/or parent prepared with a first aid kit to handle such incidents.

### **POWER SUPPLY**

We will have power outlets available for your use of amplification in the pit. **However, competing bands must provide power cords. We recommend AT LEAST a 50' extension cord just in case.**

### **HASH MARKS AND YARDLINE NUMBERS**

Since O'Brien Stadium is lined for collegiate football, temporary hash marks will be provided for high school dimensions. These will be adjusted in between bands. The official yardline numbers for both NCAA and High School fields should be the same. The top of the numbers should be 27' from the sideline and the numbers should be 6' tall.

### **BAND MEMBER SEATING**

Students may sit in areas of the home stands that are not needed by patrons with tickets. Please remind your students to be courteous and appreciative of all performing bands. Please do not move in and out of the seating area during a performance.

### **FESTIVAL PROGRAMS**

We are trying something new this year! Our PMB Festival program will be in an all digital format! Every director, parent, student and fan will be able to download the program via QR Code found throughout the facility. Additionally, I will e-mail you the program a day or two prior to the event for you to share with your fan base and students.

### **CONCESSIONS**

Concessions will be provided at the concession stands located under the home stands. Prices are average stadium prices. One may find many fast food restaurants in the University Union Food Court and on Route 16 (Lincoln Avenue) just North of the stadium. Here is the Country Catering menu and prices for stadium purchases:

#### **COOK OUT TENT**

Hamburger                   \$       4.50

#### **CONCESSION STAND**

Hot Dog                       \$3.00

Cheeseburger	\$5.00	Cheese Dog	\$3.50
Bratwurst	\$4.50	Nacho & Cheese	\$3.50
*Hamburger Meal	\$7.50	Taco In a Bag	\$4.50 / \$8.00
*Cheeseburger Meal	\$8.00	Popcorn	\$2.00
*Bratwurst Meal	\$7.50	Chips	\$1.00
Chips	\$1.00	Soda	\$2.50 / \$4.00
Soda	\$3.00	Gatorade	\$2.50
Water	\$2.00	Water	\$2.00

\*Meal includes chips / drink

### **VIDEO TAPING AND PHOTOS**

There are two video platforms and plenty of space along the top of O'Brien Stadium for you to have someone videotape your group. EIU will not be videotaping bands or taking photos of bands this year to help maintain social distancing per our Covid policy.

### **HOSPITALITY FOR DIRECTORS & STAFF**

Each director will be given three press box passes for the director and two additional staff members. You may view the competition from the Victory Suite where refreshments will be available. No one will be allowed in the adjudication areas of the Press Box. No other parents, drivers or students are allowed in the press box. We do not provide a hospitality area for parents and drivers simply because there is not a facility available at O'Brien to be able to do so.

### **REMINDERS**

Make sure your students bring needed medication, inhalers, bee sting kits, etc.

### **RAIN**

One of the advantages of our performance venue is great drainage and NO MUD! The show will be cancelled only at such time as the safety of spectators or performers is in question. Every attempt will be made to complete an entire class before such a decision is made. Eastern Illinois University cannot return registration fees as they are already encumbered for judging fees and the cost of running the contest.

We did encounter a rain delay in 2019. Luckily, we should have the Fieldhouse available for us to stage groups in if we are dealing with rain. We will be sharing any information regarding delays, etc. via the 2021 PMB Festival Band App.

### **BAND APP FOR DAY OF FESTIVAL COMMUNICATION**

We utilize the Band App here at EIU for all of our Panther Marching Band Communications. Currently, there are 12-13 different Band App groups (full band, individual sections, leadership, etc.) within the PMB to help us with our communication needs. When we hit the rain delay in 2019 we found that

everyone who utilized the Band App stayed in the loop with the schedule changes. We will be utilizing this the day of the event and strongly suggest that you join the groups when you receive the invitation via cell phone. All you do is accept the invitation and you're in the group. After the event, simply remove yourself from the group or delete the app if you aren't going to use it. Please limit this particular invitation to directors only. We will provide another Band App for Family, Friends and Fans onsite via QR code.

### **MUSIC SHOPPE**

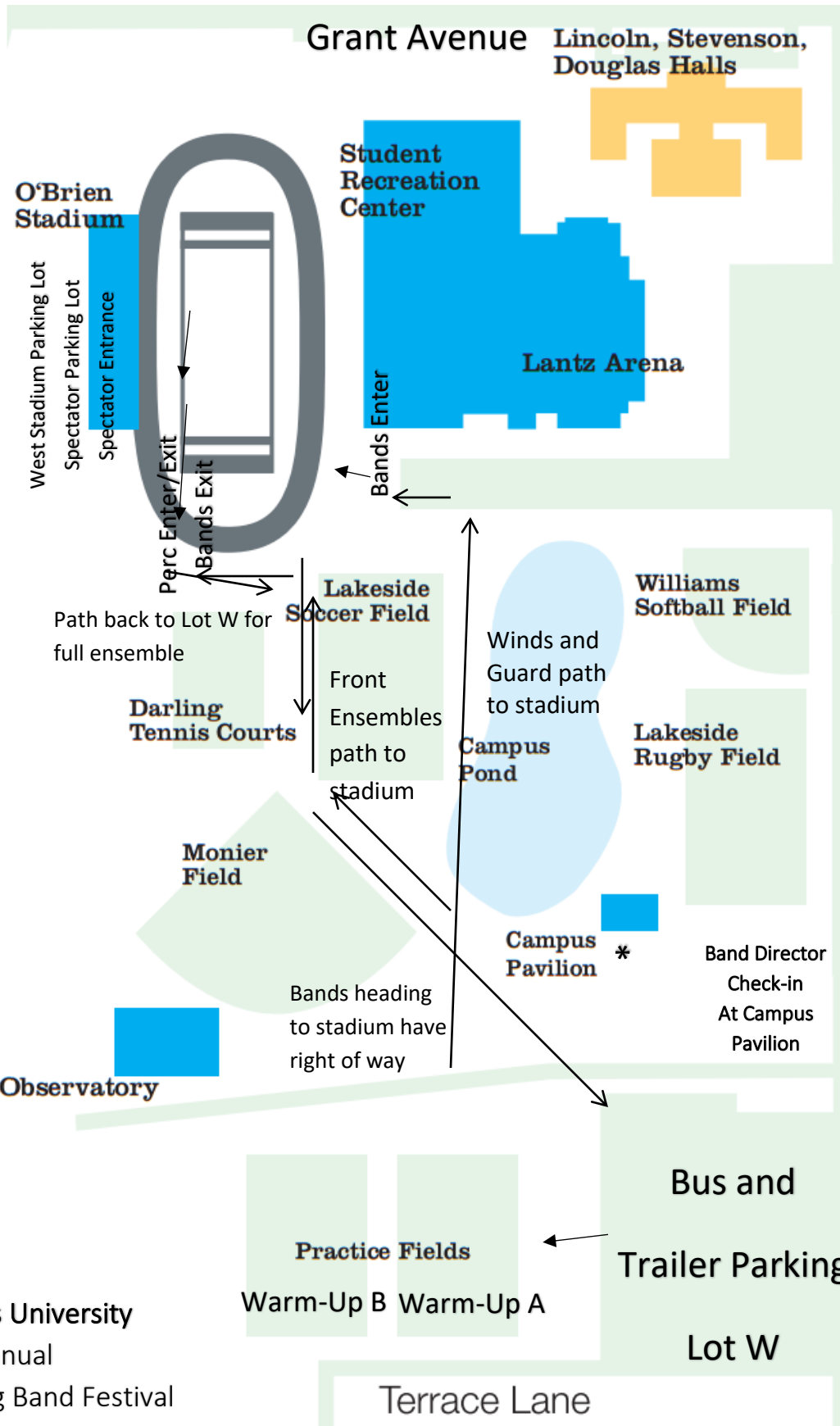
Kurtis Decker from The Music Shoppe will be on hand throughout the day to assist with musical needs. They will be located under the bleacher seating in O'Brien Stadium.

***BEST OF LUCK! We hope you have an enjoyable and educational experience at the Eastern Illinois University Panther Marching Band Festival. Thank you for your participation and please continue to share your suggestions with us.***

### **QUESTIONS**

David Boggs  
dgboggs@eiu.edu  
618-567-3893 (cell)





4<sup>th</sup> Street

4<sup>th</sup> Street

Grant Avenue

Lincoln, Stevenson,  
Douglas Halls

O'Brien  
Stadium

Student  
Recreation  
Center

Lantz Arena

West Stadium Parking Lot

Spectator Parking Lot

Spectator Entrance

Bands Enter

Bands Exit

Path back to Lot W for  
full ensemble

Lakeside  
Soccer Field

Williams  
Softball Field

Darling  
Tennis Courts

Front  
Ensembles  
path to  
stadium

Winds and  
Guard path  
to stadium

Campus  
Pond

Lakeside  
Rugby Field

Monier  
Field

Campus  
Pavilion \*

Band Director  
Check-in  
At Campus  
Pavilion

Observatory

Bands heading  
to stadium have  
right of way

Bus and

Practice Fields

Trailer Parking

Warm-Up B Warm-Up A

Lot W

Terrace Lane

Eastern Illinois University

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September 25, 2021