

Greetings from

## **EDWARDSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL**

Site of the

## **MCCGA WINTER GUARD FESTIVAL**

**March 7, 2026**

We are excited to again be the host for a MCCGA festival and we are looking forward to having everyone on our campus in our facilities. The performance venue (gymnasium) is a two-tiered facility with a great vantage point for spectators and judges alike. It has a seating capacity of 1,750. Here are a few thoughts, directions, and explanations about your day.

**DIRECTIONS:** Edwardsville High School, 6161 Center Grove Road, Edwardsville, IL 62025

### [From Interstate 270](#)

Take exit 9 for IL 157 toward Collinsville / Edwardsville. Turn left onto IL-157 N/N Bluff Rd. Slight right to stay on IL-157 N/N Bluff Rd, Turn right onto Center Grove Road (you will see the high school off to the right). Turn left into the main entrance. From there, you will see signs outlining where to go. All equipment will continue to the back of the school and park along Tiger Drive. Buses will drop off the unit members in the front Circle Drive at Door A, then park across the street at the Sports Complex.

### [From Interstate 255](#)

Head east on I-270 and take exit 9 for IL 157 toward Collinsville / Edwardsville. Turn left onto IL-157 N/N Bluff Rd. Slight right to stay on IL-157 N/N Bluff Rd, Turn right onto Center Grove Road (you will see the high school off to the right). Turn left into the main entrance. From there, you will see signs outlining where to go. All equipment will continue to the back of the school and park along Tiger Drive. Buses will drop off the unit members in the front Circle Drive at Door A, then park across the street at the Sports Complex.

### [From East on Interstate 70 \(Illinois\)](#)

Take I-70 West towards St. Louis. You will merge onto I-270 West. You will see signs for I-55 N/Chicago/Kansas City). You will continue on I-270 for approximately 3 miles. Take exit 12 (IL-159). Turn right onto IL-159 N/Rte 159/Troy Road. Continue 1.5 miles then turn left onto Kettle River Drive/Rte 159 N. Cassens car dealership is located on the left at this intersection. Turn left onto Center Grove Road. Continue about 1 mile on Center Grove Road until you reach Edwardsville High School then turn right into the main drive. From there, you will see signs outlining where to go. All equipment will continue to

the back of the school and park along Tiger Drive. Buses will drop off the unit members in the front Circle Drive at Door A, then park across the street at the Sports Complex.

Please print out the campus map posted on the MCCGA website and share them with your staff and spectators traveling with you.

**SCHEDULE:** A current schedule may be accessed through the website at [www.mccga.org](http://www.mccga.org). Warm-up schedules will be forthcoming.

**EMERGENCY CELL PHONE:** Ryan Lipscomb, Director of Bands/Contest Director, 405-255-5291

**UNIT CHECK-IN:** Check-in will take place prior to unloading equipment at Door A. Be prepared to declare the number of marching members. Penalties will be assessed for false declarations. Marching members, seven (7) staff, and the Director will be admitted at no charge. **Directors are expected to take care of their bus drivers, staff, etc. with the seven comp tickets as no extra passes will be provided for these individuals.** When you arrive at the entrance to school for check in, leave the team on the bus, come in, get wristbands, then take your bus around to Unit Entrance to get the team off the bus and to their holding area. Equipment trucks will go on to north or east side of school where props will be housed until performance

**Contest Flow:**

Unit check-in is at door A. (SW corner of school)

Unit entry is at door B. (NW corner of school)

Props and tarps can enter at door C. (North side of school, near construction zone)

After performance tarps (tarp folding can be done in band room-see map, though space is limited), props, equipment should exit doors D and E (East side of school).

Tarps and props storage areas are in the hallway between Doors D & E (see map)

If you have larger props or any concerns about storage of your props, please contact Ryan Lipscomb at [Rlipscomb@ecusd7.org](mailto:Rlipscomb@ecusd7.org)

**CHANGING/STORAGE:** There is a “school area” assigned to you on the first/second floor of the school. Your schools’ area is for “personal items” not equipment/tarps/etc. **ABSOLUTELY NO GLITTER SHOULD BE APPLIED IN A HALLWAY AREAS. Please apply any glitter outside the school building, preferably in grassy areas.** The unit equipment areas are located in the north and east hallways surrounding the performance gym. Please review the flow chart for directions. **Please be courteous of each other using these spaces, do not block another unit in and make sure there is ample space to transit through the hallways.**

We ask that you “police” your area and keep it clean. The restroom facilities (2) for you to use are located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. These restrooms will also serve as changing areas for the units. **Food and drinks**

are only allowed in the Commons/Concessions area and are not allowed in the “school area”. MCCGA and Edwardsville High School are not responsible for lost or stolen articles. **The 3<sup>rd</sup> floor is completely off-limits, no students, staff, or spectators should be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor at any point in time.**

**CONCESSIONS:** No outside food or drink will be allowed, concessions will be available in the commons. Water is the only food or drink allowed in the gym, please let your spectators know about this so they can plan their concession purchases.

**WARM-UP/PERFORMANCE AREAS:** We will utilize two warm-areas, area A and B. Please do not have your ensemble arrive earlier than your designated report times. Our gym has plenty of space behind the performance floor to set-up for your performance. Please review the maps for flow and directions. Once you exit the performance floor, the ensemble will move down the hallway and exit outside (Door E). Tarp refolding will take place in the band room. For those units that have been here before it is in the same hallway as in the past, just further down the hall. (See Map) The tarp refolding area is best for undersized tarps, if weather permits, larger tarps may be best refolded outside.

**\*\*\*NEW\*\*\* Performance Area:** Edwardsville District 7 is requiring the EHS Band Boosters to place a protective layer between the main floor covering and the gym floor. There will be a ½ inch layer of foam padding that will be marked. There is some give in the material, if you would like to bring your unit members to walk on top of it please do so during breaks.

If weather permits your ensemble to warm-up outside and you choose not to use the warm-up areas during your designated warm-up time, please have your unit enter at Door D (see map and warm-up schedule) to access the performance gym at your transit time for performance. It is the responsibility of the Unit Directors and performance to report to the performance area on time. **IF YOU CHOOSE TO FOREGO THE USE OF THE DESIGNATED INSIDE WARM-UP AREA FOR YOUR UNIT, YOU ARE STILL RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING YOUR UNIT ENTERS THE BUILDING (DOOR D) AND REPORTS IN A TIMELY MANNER BEFORE YOUR PERFORMANCE (see warm-up schedule for report times). Our festival volunteers will not be searching out your unit beforehand. Your cooperation will help to ensure the festival runs on time and to avoid possible penalties.**

**TABULATING AND JUDGING AREA:** These areas are off limits to everyone except authorized personnel.

**INTERVAL/TIMING LINE:** [Vertical Timeline](#)

**COMPETITION SUITE:** All MCCGA Festivals will use *Competition Suite* for tabulation purposes and commentary processing. You will be provided with an access code to *Competition Suite* where you will be able to access your judge’s commentary on your cell phone, laptop, etc. Also through *Competition Suite*, you will be able to access recaps from the festival once they are processed and posted. MCCGA will email access codes for *Competition Suites* to Unit Directors.

**Music:** A google drive link is available below, but a CD player will also be provided. A connector for inputting other devices, such as iPods, MP3 players, etc. will be available. Please have a backup for your music. The sound table and the Announcer's table are located along the North East side of the Performance Gym. Sound testing will begin at 1 hour prior to the first performance and continue through breaks. Music may be tested during breaks. **Music Upload:** [2026 MCCGA Edwardsville Music Upload](#)

**RETREAT:** Unit captains will report to the Warm Up Gym. Cadet and Scholastic/Independent Regional A retreat report time is 1:30PM. Scholastic Novice/AA/A and Independent A/World retreat report time is 7:30PM.

**VIDEO RECORDING:** As outlined in the MCCGA Rule Book **video recording will be allowed at all circuit shows with the exception of the MCCGA Championships.**

**BUILDING ENTRANCES:** Please **share this information with all of your staff/unit members/and spectators that may travel with you.** To ease traffic flow and to provide a quiet and calm area for performers to mentally and physically prepare for their performance we will be using the entrances into our facility in the following manner: In the very back of the school will be a **Performer only entrance (Door B).** This is for staff/unit members bringing in their equipment and staff members to "come and go." The main entrance doors to the school are the **Spectator Only** entrances. Anyone wanting to watch units performing will go into the Commons/Concessions Area and enter the gymnasium. **NO ONE BUT PERFORMERS AND THEIR STAFF WILL BE ALLOWED ON THE PERFORMANCE FLOOR IN AND AROUND THE GYMNASIUM.** There is an elevator just off the Commons/Concession area for those who need assistance.

**Animal Guidelines:** The Edwardsville School District only allows animals that are designated service animals per the Americans with Disabilities Act. Emotional Support Animals that provide comfort through presence alone are not allowed in the building and do not have public access rights per the ADA.

**A NOTE REGARDING SAFETY OF STUDENTS:** It is requested that each director has dialogue with their students regarding their personal safety on the day of the festival. PLEASE ask your students not to wander from the festival area. Discussion with your students about this matter and treating the Edwardsville High School facilities with respect will be greatly appreciated.

We are looking forward to seeing all the extraordinary guard units on the day of the festival. If there is anything we can do that day to make your stay here more pleasant please do not hesitate to ask any of us. My contact information is below if you have any further questions. Please do not hesitate to contact me before or during the festival.

Ryan Lipscomb

Director of Bands

[Rlipscomb@ecusd7.org](mailto:Rlipscomb@ecusd7.org)

618-655-6766 band room

405-255-5291 cell phone