



# Lincoln-Way District 210

## News Release

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**From:** Taryn Atwell

**Date:** June 16, 2017

### **RE: Lincoln-Way Marching Band begins second season as mega band**

Although the 275 members of the Lincoln-Way Marching Band (LWMB) have been busy practicing throughout the summer, the first official performance of the 2017-2018 school year won't take place until the Mokena 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. The LWMB looks forward to showcasing their hard work and talent in their second year as a combined "community band."

Discussion of combining all Lincoln-Way High School Marching Bands began in fall of 2015, and stemmed from Marching Band Directors, Bert Johnson, Justin Barnish, Christopher Mroczek and Cary Ruklic. Seeing the need for unity and the benefits that it would provide, the directors polled parents and students for their input regarding a unified District Marching Band at the end of the 2015-2016 school year. The results were overwhelming; over 90 percent of students and 89 percent of parents stated that they would like to combine bands.

In the 2016-2017 school year, the LWMB members and directors took on the enormous musical challenge. Members from all high schools spent countless hours preparing for their performances. The band was recognized numerous times throughout the year, competing locally, regionally, and nationally. The band participated in six parades throughout the school year, and in October, the LWMB took first place in Class 6A at the Illinois State University Invitational, placing third overall.

In July of 2016, the band was invited to perform live on Fox News Chicago. In September, with careful planning and fundraising by the LWMB music boosters, the band performed various pieces for thousands of residents in the Lincoln-Way Central football stadium; this began the tradition of "Community Night," which will take place again this year on Saturday, August 26.

In September, the LWMB hosted their twenty-first annual Marching Band Invitational, accommodating over 2000 student-musicians from Illinois area high schools. Two band members were also recognized nationally when one was inducted into the U.S. Army All-American Marching Band and another performed in New York City's renowned Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Throughout the year, thousands of Lincoln-Way community members, families, and businesses were able to witness the incredible talent of the LWMB. "With such incredible success last year, we can't wait to see what this year will bring," says Sponsorship Director Kim Hansen. Hansen is responsible for securing sponsors throughout the community to encourage connections between students, local businesses, and the Lincoln-Way residents who support them.

"Our sponsorship program is mutually beneficial to businesses and students," she says. "Our current sponsors have been extremely happy with the partnership that they have created with the Lincoln-Way

Marching Band...It is a fantastic way to form a partnership with the largest group of families in the Lincoln-Way District. Our families are extremely loyal and supportive of our sponsors."

Sponsorship packages begin at \$100, and include a variety of perks dependent on investment, ranging from business listings in the LWMB programs to logo display on LWMB transportation.

Those who wish to learn more about the band can visit <http://www.lincolnwaymusic.org/lwmb.html>. Those interested in the sponsorship program can visit <http://www.lincolnwaymusic.org/sponsor.html>, and are encouraged to contact Kim Hansen at [lwmsponsorship@gmail.com](mailto:lwmsponsorship@gmail.com).



**LINCOLN-WAY**  
MARCHING BAND