



2026

High School Marching Band Competition



Apple Festival Corporate Partner



Saturday, September 12th, 2026
4:15 PM – E.L. “Doc” Bencini Field
Murphysboro High School

DRUMS AT APPLETIME 2026

National Anthem and Introductions	4:15
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WHITE DIVISION

Frankfort Community High School	4:30
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Sparta High School	4:45
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Pinckneyville Community High School	5:15
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Anna-Jonesboro Community High School	5:30
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Nashville Community High School	5:45
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RED DIVISION

Orchard Farm High School	6:15
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Cartersville High School	6:30
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SILVER DIVISION

Carbondale Community High School	6:45
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Paducah Tilghman High School	7:00
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Waterloo High School	7:15
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Centralia High School	7:30
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GOLD DIVISION

Granite City High School	7:45
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Marion High School	8:00
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Northwest High School	8:15
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Cape Central High School	8:45
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McCracken County High School	9:00
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EXHIBITION

Murphysboro High School	9:15
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AWARDS CEREMONY

Participating School Drum Majors	9:30
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COORDINATORS' MESSAGE

Good evening,

It is our distinct honor to welcome you to Murphysboro High School and to Drums at Appletime 2026. Tradition, musicianship, and collaboration will once again take center stage as the bands compete this afternoon and evening here at Doc Bencini Field. Thanks to the dedication of many hardworking individuals, Drums at Appletime 2026 has once again become a reality. Crimson Express is proud to bring you Drums at Appletime in its entirety, and we're especially excited to welcome any new schools that are joining us for the first time!

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Crimson Express and Company, the CE BANDS Parent Booster Organization, for their incredible volunteers. We're equally grateful to the Murphysboro Apple Festival, Inc., the Drums at Appletime Subcommittee, our Apple Festival sponsors, and our Crimson Express event sponsors — your support makes it possible to host an event of this scale. We are deeply grateful to the businesses and community members who have stood by us from the beginning. Your contributions show that music, the arts, and youth programs remain a valued priority in our region.

Finally, we are grateful you are here today, supporting all the talented students and bands participating. Your continued encouragement helps ensure that music education thrives in our schools for years to come.

We hope you enjoy the performances and look forward to welcoming you back next year!

Sincerely,

Nicholas Williams, Director, Crimson Express & CE BANDS
Murphysboro Apple Festival, Inc.

Kirk Caskey, Drums at Appletime Committee
Peggy Reiman, Drums at Appletime Committee
Murl Reiman, Drums at Appletime Committee
Nancy Caskey, Drums at Appletime Committee
Nicholas Blew, Drums at Appletime Committee
Jennie Snyder, Drums at Appletime Committee
Sharon Fry, Drums at Appletime Committee
Joe Fry, Drums at Appletime Committee

MEET YOUR HOST



CRIMSON EXPRESS – Murphysboro High School Marching Band

Murphysboro High School is home for the Crimson Express Marching Band. Crimson Express is a unique and wonderful blend of students, staff, parents, and community members devoted to the sustained success of the program. Crimson Express was formed 37 years ago by founding director, Mark Mikulay. He quickly transformed the high school band program from a highly accomplished concert band to a program thriving in all areas. Today the band program at Murphysboro High School strives for excellence in marching, concert, and jazz, offering a large number of musical experiences for its students. During its 37-year existence, the Crimson Express performed in local, national, and international contests and festivals, winning countless awards and making it one of the community's most well-known and valuable assets. The Band has toured/performed in the following cities: Washington D.C., New York City, NY, Lynn/Boston, MA, Disney World/Orlando, FL, Chicago, IL, Memphis, TN, Traverse City, MI, Toronto, Canada, Calgary, Canada, Regina, Canada, Niagara Falls, ON, Denver, CO, St. Louis, MO, Racine, WI, Mt. Rushmore, SD, Drum Corps Midwest Championships in Dekalb, IL, BOA Grand Nationals in Indianapolis, IN, and various other local and regional locations. The Crimson Express is under the direction of Nicholas Williams.

Crimson Express would like to thank its wonderful Band Boosters organization; Crimson Express & Co., without which many activities would not be possible. Crimson Express Special Staff includes Michael Moreland-Assistant Director, Dustin Kelley-Assistant Director, Alex Kelley-Color Guard Design, Kayla Roach and Raegan Ripley-Color Guard/Auxiliary Techs, Mackenzie Riedy-Front Ensemble, and Lucas Barger-Battery Tech. Its Fall 2026 production is entitled **BLUE**. The music is arranged by Assistant Director Michael Moreland. Drill is designed by Shannon Jeffreys. The band is led on the field by Senior Drum Major Harper Geis and Junior Drum Major Zeke Gerler. Crimson welcomes you this evening and hopes you have an enjoyable and rewarding experience. Good luck to all of tonight's participating bands, have a great competition season, and we will see you next year!



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supports all of the participating
marching bands!*

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MEET THE JUDGES

Music Execution-Philip Carter
Music General Effect-Jeff Singer
Visual Execution-Juan Black
Visual General Effect-Colin Hunt
Percussion-Mike Davis
Color Guard -Mark Martin
Drum Major-Lindsey Williams

TABULATORS

Monica May and Rob Yokom

ANNOUNCER

Will Stephens



CONCESSIONS



PLEASE VISIT OUR CONCESSION AREA

1/3lb Hamburgers

Hotdogs

Pat's BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwiches

Pizza

Pickles

Candy

Chips

Soda

Water

Apple Cider
Fire and Ice-Shaved Ice

DRUMS AT APPLETIME 2026 FIELD SHOW COMPETITION
PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

3:30 PM GATES OPEN

4:15 PM INTRODUCTIONS & THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

4:30 PM – WHITE DIVISION

FRANKFORT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING REDBIRDS-West Frankfort, IL

Band Size: 42 School Size: 385

Director: Jeremy Followell

Staff: Brilea Smith-Percussion, Ally Taylor-Color Guard

Drum Major(s): Senior Drum Major-Emma Goforth, Junior Drum Major-Quetzally Camargo

Production: **Friday Night Rock**

4:45 PM – WHITE DIVISION

SPARTA HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BULLDOGS-Sparta, IL

Band Size: 42 School Size: 290

Director: Keith Shastenn

Staff: Ashley Reagan-Color Guard Coach

Drum Major(s): Lynassa Richardson

Production: **Angels & Demons**

5:15 PM – WHITE DIVISION

PINCKNEYVILLE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING PANTHERS-Pinckneyville, IL

Band Size: 50 School Size: 350

Director: Amber Nichols Associate Director: Ellen Filkins

Staff: Micaela Heine, Aliyah Meyers-Spencer-Color Guard, Karen O'Brien-Percussion

Drum Major(s): Leah Bathon

Production: **Star Man**

5:30 PM – WHITE DIVISION

ANNA-JONESBORO COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING WILDCATS-Anna, IL

Band Size: 44 School Size: 450

Director: Ashley Followell

Staff: Bren Gallegly

Drum Major(s): Riley Larsen, Zoey Larsen

Production: **Fourth Rock from the Sun (The music of Gustav Holst & Bruno Mars)**

5:45 PM – WHITE DIVISION

NASHVILLE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING HORNETS-Nashville, IL

Band Size: 70 School Size: 350
Director: Steve Browne Associate Director: Michele Goostree, Lea Hoock
Drum Major(s): Kylie Valdivia
Production: **Extraterrestrial**

6:00 PM – BREAK (15 Minutes)

Do not forget to visit our concession stand located behind the stadium!

6:15 PM – RED DIVISION

ORCHARD FARM HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING EAGLES-St. Charles, MO

Band Size: 54 School Size: 700
Director: Trevor McGraw Associate Director: Robert Mobley
Staff: Emma Rowden-Percussion, John Dwinell-Percussion, and Adam Colter-Winds
Drum Major(s): TBA
Production: **Chasing the Storm**

6:30 PM – RED DIVISION

CARTERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL PRIDE OF THE LIONS MARCHING BAND-Carterville, IL

Band Size: 75 School Size: 625
Director: Sarah Braddock
Staff: Jessica Cook, Allison Berry-Color Guard, Jeff Dixon-Percussion
Drum Major(s): Evan Miranti, Paul Norrington
Production: **Escape from Reality-Music from Queen**

6:45 PM – SILVER DIVISION

CARBONDALE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING TERRIERS-Carbondale, IL

Band Size: 67 School Size: 993
Director: Rachel Norton Associate Director: Katrina Wood
Staff: Jessica Clark-Color Guard, Keaton Jones-Percussion, Lorie Trexler-Drum Majors, Kristin Demos-Brass and Visual, Justin Laux-Sound Design
Drum Major(s): Gabriel Otey, Emma McBride, Trennis Hudson Jr.
Production: **Dark Horse Feat**

7:00 PM – SILVER DIVISION

PADUCAH TILGHMAN BAND OF BLUE-Paducah, KY

Band Size: 58 School Size: 860
Director: Caleb Hamlyn Associate Director: Deatrik Kinney
Drum Major(s): TBA
Production: **TBA**

7:15 PM – SILVER DIVISION

WATERLOO HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BULLDOGS-Waterloo, IL

Band Size: 83 School Size: 850
Director: Zachary Smith Associate Director: Brianna Gaskin
Staff: Mackenzie Groh, Austin Herald, Joel Caskey, Alex Brake
Drum Major(s): TBA
Production: **TBA**

7:30 PM – SILVER DIVISION

CENTRALIA HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING SHOWCASE-Centralia, IL

Band Size: 46 School Size: 850
Director: Stephanie Aarons-Dennison
Staff: Mikey Beal, Madie Ruez, Alex Rademacher, Kirstin Altom, Reed Mays, Connor Lorence
Drum Major(s): Matthew Rau
Production: **Outside the Box**

7:45 PM – GOLD DIVISION

GRANITE CITY HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING WARRIORS-Granite City, IL

Band Size: 140 School Size: 1750
Director: Wyatt Roberds Associate Director(s): Jaida Brockman, Denny McFarland
Special Staff: TBA
Production: **TBA**

8:00 PM – GOLD DIVISION

MARION HIGH SCHOOL WILDCAT BAND-Marion, IL

Band Size: 110 School Size: 1100
Director: Joel Kirby Associate Director: Andrea Francis
Staff: Tonya Mathews-Color Guard, Connor Vine-Drumline
Drum Major(s): TBA
Production: **Unbreakable**

8:15 PM – GOLD DIVISION

NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL THE SPIRIT OF NORTHWEST-Cedar Hill, MO

Band Size: 50 School Size: 1550
Director: Brett Dunsford Associate Director: TBA
Special Staff: TBA
Production: **Up Slide Down**

8:30 PM – BREAK (15 Minutes)

Do not forget to visit our concession stand located behind the stadium!

8:45 PM – GOLD DIVISION

CAPE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING TIGERS-Cape Girardeau, MO

Band Size: 78

School Size: 1100

Director: Josh LaMar

Associate Directors: Madison Jarrett, Michael Harr

Staff: Trisha Hensley - Color Guard

Drum Major(s): TBA

Production: **Retrovision**

9:00 PM - GOLD DIVISION

MCCRACKEN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL MUSTANG MARCHING BAND-Paducah, KY

Band Size: 132

School Size: 2000

Director: Sam Riddick

Associate Director: Spencer Sullivan

Staff: TBA

Drum Major(s): Ashtyn Thomas, Ella Moore

Production: **The faces we hide**

9:15 PM – EXHIBITION

MURPHYSBORO HIGH SCHOOL CRIMSON EXPRESS-Murphysboro, IL

Band Size: 81

School Size: 577

Director: Nicholas Williams

Asst. Director(s): Michael Moreland, Dustin Kelley

Staff: Kayla Roach, Raegan Ripley-Color Guard/Auxiliary Techs, Mackenzie Riedy-Front Ensemble, Lucas Barger-Battery Tech, Alex Kelley-Color Guard Design, Shannon Jeffreys-Visual Design

Drum Major(s): Senior Drum Major-Harper Geis, Junior Drum Major-Zeke Gerler

Production: **BLUE**

9:30 PM AWARDS CEREMONY (*DRUM MAJORS ONLY*)



Follow Crimson Express to keep up with the band!



Crimsonexpress.org

Facebook: CE BANDS

Instagram: @crimsonexpress



AUDIENCE JUDGING FORM

<i>CAPTION</i>	<i>WHITE/RED DIVISIONS</i>	<i>SILVER DIVISION</i>	<i>GOLD DIVISION</i>
Outstanding Drum Major			
Outstanding Auxiliary			
Outstanding Percussion			
Outstanding Music Performance			
Outstanding Visual Performance			

TONY STEVENS AWARD

<i>Band</i>	<i>Soloist (Best soloist regardless of Division)</i>

DIVISION PLACEMENT

<i>WHITE DIVISION</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>My Score</i>	<i>Judges Score</i>	<i>Place</i>
Frankfort Community High School Marching Redbirds	4:30			
Sparta High School Marching Bulldogs	4:45			
Pinckneyville Community High School Marching Panthers	5:15			
Anna-Jonesboro Community High School Marching Wildcats	5:30			
Nashville Community High School Marching Hornets	5:45			

RED DIVISION	Time	My Score	Judges Score	Place
Orchard Farm High School Marching Eagles	6:15			
Carterville High School Pride of the Lions Marching Band	6:30			

SILVER DIVISION	Time	My Score	Judges Score	Place
Carbondale Community High School Marching Terriers	6:45			
Paducah Tilghman High School Band of Blue	7:00			
Waterloo High School Marching Bulldogs	7:15			
Centralia High School Marching Showcase	7:30			

GOLD DIVISION	Time	My Score	Judges Score	Place
Granite City High School Marching Warriors	7:45			
Marion High School Wildcat Band	8:00			
Northwest High School Spirit of Northwest	8:15			
Cape Central High School Marching Tigers	8:45			
McCracken County High School Mustang Band	9:00			

MARION NASH GRAND CHAMPION AWARD (REGARDLESS OF DIVISION)	OVERALL FIELD SHOW COMPOSITE

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW
FOR NEXT YEAR'S
MURPHYSBORO APPLE FESTIVAL &
DRUMS AT APPLETIME 2027!**

September 11, 2027





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Molly's Pint wishes the best of luck to the
Murphysboro Crimson Express for the upcoming band competition season. Molly's Pint supports Drums at Appletime and music education in
Murphysboro.

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Pat's BBQ is proud to support Crimson Express!
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Congratulations to the Crimson Express Class of 2027!

Your hard work and dedication have brought you to this incredible milestone. We are so proud of you!



Alex Acosta
Leo Aragon
Bonnie Chen
Claire Dunmire
Allison Dyer
Harper Geis
Oshun Fabian-Hurtado
Holly Hearn
Juana Hernandez-Garcia
Mason Liggett
Blake Morthland



**Ethan Mueller
Keegan Norris
Emily Ticer
Caleb Townley
Noah Townley**

**Seniors, this is it — go out there and make your final Drums at
Appletime performance one you'll never forget.**