

### **113 District 7 Music Students Selected for 2009 IMEA Festival**

On Saturday, November 7, the 2009, approximately 700 students from school districts all over Southern Illinois traveled to Edwardsville High School for the 2009 Illinois Music Educators Association (IMEA) All-District Festival. This was the first year an event like this was hosted by Edwardsville High School. The event was a huge success with over 2,000 people attending the Junior and Senior Concerts combined. The IMEA sponsors and organizes workshops and festivals in nine geographic districts every Fall for elementary through secondary schools. IMEA is a non-profit association, representing every level of music education in every discipline. With more than 5,000 members, IMEA is one of the largest of the 52 affiliates of MENC: The National Association for Music Education, over 100,000 members strong. IMEA is, by far, the largest Fine Arts education organization in Illinois and among the largest in the Nation.

District 7 Band, Choir, and Orchestra students worked diligently throughout September and October preparing for All-District auditions on Columbus Day. A few days after auditions, students received notification if they had been selected for one of the ensembles. Students selected for the All-District Festival comprise the best musicians in Southern Illinois. The All-District festival is divided into two age categories: Junior Level (6th-8th grades), and Senior Level (9th-12th grades). At the Junior Level, students from Lincoln and Liberty Middle Schools had 6 students selected for Junior Band, 9 students selected for Junior Choir, and 37 students selected for Junior Orchestra. Senior Level students selected included 8 EHS band students, 28 EHS choir students, and 25 EHS orchestra students.