



Springs Valley Blackhawk Brigade

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Bonding with the Baritones

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For six years now, I have been a member of the Blackhawk Brigade. The last five of those years have been spent in the low brass, specifically the baritone section. As a senior, I have had time to watch my fellow baritones grow in both their playing abilities and in their lives. We've bickered, argued, laughed, goofed off, and supported each other through the years and in the end I realize that I couldn't have asked for a better group of guys to see me through to the end of my marching band career.

Jacob Crowder is one part of the "Jacob Squared" pair. Despite his affinity for mischief and rocket ships, Crowder is turning into a great leader and player and I am proud to know that he will be assuming my role as section leader. With his big sound, hardcore attitude, and sense of humor, Jacob Crowder is sure to be one of the best band members of his time.

Jacob Stout completes the "Jacob Squared" pair and provides our comic relief. At times, he may drive everyone crazy but he is always good for a laugh and makes sure nobody takes themselves too seriously. A great baritone player, Stout has greatly matured this year and is really stepping up into his leadership role. Thanks to him, I am confident about leaving my baritones to fend for themselves after I graduate.

While most people would call me crazy to leave my beloved section in the hands of these two troublemakers, I gladly trust them with the future of my section. As long as they stay away from rocket ships and keep working hard, they are sure to make me, and everyone else, proud of their future achievements.

Noah Hinkley is the third piece of our group and I am proud to call him my brother in both section and blood. Having your older sister as a section leader is tough and yet he has managed to stick with it for two years now. Sure we have our spats but for the most part Noah has really become an important asset to our section. He is one of the best Junior High players I know and, as long as he is part of the section, the future looks bright for the baritones.

Blake Robling is our newest baritone and so far, his rookie year has been impressive.

His first feat was actually learning to play the show music, a tough thing to do for any first-year member. Blake is an excellent marcher and shows real promise. He even managed to withstand our teasing and really create his own place in the group. I cannot wait to see what his future years hold.

And so, the descriptions come to an end. In reality, the simple paragraphs here cannot explain the connection and bond we have. They merely scratch the surface. We have become like family to each other and we support each other through good times and bad. I will be sad to leave my boys but happy in knowing that they have the leadership and the skills to take care of themselves. I wish them all the best in their futures and thank them for the lasting impressions they have left on my own life. Good luck guys! I love you all!