

SPRINGS VALLEY
BLACKHAWK
BRIGADE

"A Tradition of Excellence"

Springs Valley Jr./Sr. High School
Band Department

Parent/Student
Marching Band Handbook
2009-2010

Luke Aylsworth, Director
Dee Skaggs, Department Secretary
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www.blackhawkbrigade.com

Sponsored by
Blackhawk Brigade Band Boosters

WELCOME

Congratulations students and parents! You have made a great decision to join the Springs Valley Blackhawk Brigade. The Brigade is one of the most successful co-curricular activities at Springs Valley. In addition, it is one of the most storied marching band programs in the state of Indiana. The band has enjoyed being a 19 time ISSMA State Finalist. In addition, the Brigade is a former ISSMA State Champion and a three time ISSMA State Runner-Up (most recently in 2007). Your participation in this activity will be a cherished memory of your school career at Springs Valley. For parents, I hope your child's participation also allows you and your family to take part in the fun, excitement, and passion that we call marching band. So again, congratulations! This will be an exciting endeavor for you and your family.

This handbook has been put together to assist both the student and parent. The band program provides many great opportunities for your student. As with all great programs, there is a lot of preparation and support required to make this a rewarding experience for all. We know each year many questions will arise. This handbook has been designed to help answer those. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to call or email using the contact information below.

DIRECTOR & ASSISTANTS

Director of Bands	Luke Aylsworth	aylsworth@blackhawkbrigade.com
Guard Director	Laura Aylsworth	laylsworth936@hotmail.com
Assistant to Director	John Aylsworth	
Administrative Assistant	Dee Skaggs	
Percussion Director	Justin Wininger	
Instructor/Webmaster	Jermaine Williams	info@blackhawkbrigade.com

Contact the above personnel at 812-936-9984 ext. 230

DESIGN TEAM, ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF, LOGISTICAL STAFF & INTERNS

Eric Berger	Drill Writer
John Meehan	Music Arranger
Key Poulan	Music Arranger
Shane Jones	Percussion
Brandon Hagen	Percussion
Andrew Alspaugh	Music/Visual
Niles Abel	Percussion
Hallie Conrad	Brass
Tabitha Adams	Brass
Aaron Nicolson	Music/Visual
Amy Drake	Photographer/Guard
Whitney Dedrick	Percussion
Seth Stout	Logistics
Derek McBride	Logistics
Amber Alspaugh	Percussion Intern
Kyle Apple	Music/Visual Intern
Darcy Olsen	Woodwind Intern
Alex Pierce	Percussion Intern
Haley Bowling	Percussion Intern

BAND BOOSTER OFFICERS

President	Trevor Apple	president@blackhawkbrigade.com
Vice President	Danielle Crowder	vp@blackhawkbrigade.com
Treasurer	Amanda Parsons	treasurer@blackhawkbrigade.com
Secretary	Pam Dixon	secretary@blackhawkbrigade.com

INFORMATION

Information regarding marching season or the band program can be found in four locations.

1. BAND BOOSTER MEETINGS

Booster Meetings are held once a month, usually the second Monday of each month at 7PM in the High School Band Room. All parents are invited and encouraged to attend. A wealth of information is given at each meeting concerning schedules, fundraisers, upcoming events, volunteer needs, band camp, and much, much more. The best way for you to be informed is to attend the booster meetings regularly.

2. WEBSITE & SOCIAL NETWORKING

The band also has a website where current information is posted along with pictures and videos. The site is www.blackhawkbrigade.com. In addition, the band maintains information on several social networking sites including Facebook, and Twitter.

3. EMAIL

Updates and other important information are sent out via e-mail from the Director of Bands and the band boosters as the need arises. Email is an effective and important means of communication, so please make sure you have signed up for the Brigade email mailing list and that you keep it updated with your current email address. Simply send your information to aylsworth@blackhawkbrigade.com.

4. BAND ROOM

Another place where you will find important information is the band room. There is a table just inside the band room door where you will find calendars, contest schedules, etc. Relevant items are placed there for the students to take home. Parents are welcome to come in and pick up the information for themselves.

If you have any questions, please contact any of the people listed in this handbook.

ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR PERFORMANCES AND REHEARSALS

Attendance at rehearsals and performances is required. Any problems will be dealt with on a personal basis. All absences must be recorded on an absence form and turned in prior to the absence or by the next rehearsal. Attendance forms should be turned in to Dee Skaggs or the drum majors. Absences may be excused for the following reasons when Mr. Aylsworth is notified in writing ahead of time:

1. Funeral services for family members or close family friends.
2. Wedding services for immediate family members (mother, father, siblings).
3. Illness that would require a student to miss a regular school day. Mr. Aylsworth must be notified before rehearsal if a student is going to miss an evening rehearsal due to illness. Notifying Mr. Aylsworth after the absence will result in an unexcused absence.
4. School sponsored activities. Mr. Aylsworth must be notified in writing one week in advance of the activity. For athletic activities, in order to be excused, the athletic activity must be IN SEASON. Absences will not be excused for off season activities.
5. Serious personal issues that have been discussed with Mr. Aylsworth
6. Other reasons must be discussed with Mr. Aylsworth.

Work is not an excused absence.

Unexcused Absences

Unexcused absences may result in a student losing his or her spot in the show and the lowering of his or her grade. Unexcused absences from a performance may result in the loss of a performing spot and a failing grade. A written note from the student's legal guardian must be sent to Mr. Aylsworth in order to consider the absence excused or unexcused. Excessive absences may result in loss of performing privileges at the following performance. Numerous absences within the performing group may result in cancellation of contests.

Tardies

Each student is expected to be on time, if not early, to all rehearsals/performance functions. If a student will be tardy to a rehearsal, the legal guardian must provide written notice prior to the scheduled rehearsal. Please DO NOT send word with another student or parent. Two unexcused tardies will result in one unexcused absence being applied to the student.

Why is Good Attendance Important?

The Blackhawk Brigade has enjoyed a high level of improvement and success. In order to maintain this high level of competition, students must be at practice to continue to further their education and improvement. Even if one student is absent, the band does not improve at the same rate as if everyone was in attendance. For example, if every student missed just one practice per season, the band as a whole would lose over 240 hours of rehearsal time. Please keep in mind that the precision drill formations we perform require specialized spacing and rehearsed muscle memory and visual perception. When students are absent, it not only affects that individual student. One student's absence can have a great effect on the entire band.

Parents often ask, "What can I do to help the band?" The biggest way to help the band is to take on the responsibility of getting your child to practice. You can help by scheduling appointments, vacations, reunions, and other events around the band schedule. Generally, the schedule is available in February. Please help us in our quest to "improve every season, every practice, and every year."

Taking attendance seriously is also a great educational tool for teaching students responsibility, punctuality, character, and accountability.

COST

At Springs Valley, the cost for band class and marching band participation is one of the lowest in the state. To keep the costs low for each family, we participate in fundraisers and our band booster organization raises funds to supplement the cost of student participation. In order to be fair to all participating students, the band department recommends that students participate in all scheduled fundraisers and that students pay their minimal fees promptly. The typical costs of participation are listed below. The band department has a long tradition of keeping costs low and assuring that financial standing will not limit a student's opportunity for participation. If a family is in need of assistance, please contact the director privately. Payment plans, scholarships, and special arrangements can be made in advance.

MARCHING BAND FEES

Uniform Accessory Fee - \$30.00

This fee pays for three T-shirts and one pair of shorts, as well as equipment gloves for the color guard. These items are required for participation. Two shirts and the shorts are worn underneath the uniform. The other T-shirt is the marching show shirt. This shirt will be worn at each contest site to provide added security and identity to our group.

Due – July 24th, 2009 – End of Band Camp

Instrument Rental Fee - \$35.00

This is a school-year fee for instruments rented by students from Springs Valley School Corporation. This is a one-time fee per school year. Springs Valley is one of the few schools in the state that provides instrument rental for all participating band students in grades 5 – 12. This fee is considerably low in comparison to instrument rental fees from music stores or other local schools. To compare, other schools in Orange County must charge \$35 - \$50 per month for student instrument rental. The Springs Valley Instrument Rental Program has been recognized by the Indiana Music Educators Association as an innovative system for music education. The fee also includes maintenance and repair from Conrad's Music Service in Corydon, IN.

Due – Must be paid during the 2009 – 2010 school year

The two fees listed above are the only two required fees for marching band participation. The uniform accessory fee is the most important fee to have paid during the summer months. T-shirts and accessories must be ordered and ready by August. Other than these fees, the only other costs are weekend contest meals for students. This would be spending money that you send with your child for purchasing food at concession stands at contest sites. However, you are welcome to send small coolers with food and drinks. On occasion, the band booster organization and the band department will provide meals for the band. You will be notified in advance if students will be provided complimentary meals.

REHEARSAL CLOTHING

Students should wear comfortable clothing to all rehearsals. Shirts (required for all rehearsals and band camp), shorts, sweats, loose fitting pants, socks, and good tennis shoes are the most acceptable attire. Please listen to weather reports in the morning or evening and plan your attire accordingly. When after school rehearsals begin, students must bring proper attire to change into if they will be coming to practice from an extra-curricular activity.

When contest season begins, the band will often wear one of the provided T-shirts for Saturday morning rehearsal. This allows the staff to fix the drill forms much faster and with more precision. If a student already owns the required shirt from a previous season, they may substitute their shirt on those mornings as long as the shirt is identical to the required attire for that rehearsal (e.g., black or grey .com shirts).

SUNBURN CARE AND PRECATUION

Our biggest and most troublesome problem at band camp is often sunburn. Some students could even develop second-degree burns from being out in the sun with little to no protection. We would suggest a sunblock of SPF 15-30. Any lower number, you are at your own risk!

1. If you burn easily, DEFINITELY use SPF 15 or higher.
2. Prevent sunburned lips by using Blistex Daily Conditioning treatment with SPF 15.
3. If your nose burns easily, use Zinc Oxide paste.
4. Bring Solarcaine in case of mild sunburns.
5. Wearing a hat can help prevent sunburn on the face and scalp.

UNIFORM CARE PROCEDURES

The following procedures are to be followed by each band member. Your cooperation is appreciated.

1. All uniforms are kept in the uniform room at the school.
2. All pieces of each uniform are numbered and assigned to a student who must remember their assigned uniform number.
3. Along with the issued uniform, the band student is to wear black marching shoes, black socks, black gloves, black shorts and the appropriate www.blackhawkbrigade.com T-shirt (grey or black will be specified and provided) at each performance. The only item that students need to bring to a performance is high **BLACK SOCKS** (no ankle socks). Color guard members will be informed of what items they will need to bring to each contest to wear under their uniforms.
4. After a performance, T-shirts are to be placed in the appropriate basket and will be laundered for the student. DO NOT leave them in the uniform box.
5. Each student is responsible for hanging his/her own uniform back on the hanger properly and returning it to the Band Uniform Mom/Dad responsible for their assigned box. Each garment will be checked to be sure it is hung properly and that all pieces of the uniform have been returned.
6. Band students are not permitted to eat while in uniform and only water is to be consumed during this time.
7. The proper way to wear the uniform is with the jacket all the way on (hooked and zipped) or with the jacket off and carried, folded over the arm. When wearing the uniform, please look before you sit (even on the bus) to be sure you do not sit in something that will stain the uniform.
8. Normal wear is to be expected, but if there is a problem with the uniform, please bring it to the attention of the Band Uniform Moms/Dads so that it might be corrected.

CONTESTS AND INVITATIONAL PERFORMANCES

By Wednesday, if possible, of a contest week, an itinerary detailing the timeline for the contest day, meal plans, and directions will be available in the band room, band office, and the website. Encourage your student to bring an itinerary home so you will be aware of the specific times. We will email the schedule to all email addresses we have, so please make sure you have signed up for the mailing list service. Plan to attend as many functions as possible. This is a good way to meet parents, get to know other students, and support the band for all their hard work. Look for other Springs Valley parents at the contests. The boosters try to sit together in a block to cheer for our students when they come on and go off the field. When driving to the contests, you can either follow the caravan or get the directions from www.mapquest.com using the address provided on the contest schedule for the week. After the contest, you may come to the bus area to celebrate with the students.

BUS CARRY-ONS

NO GLASS CONTAINERS

Bottled water
Snacks, fruit, etc.
Jacket or sweatshirt and pants for cool late nights
Necessary band items and personal items
Pillow and/or blanket

NO COOLERS OR BAGS ARE ALLOWED IN FRONT OF EMERGENCY DOORS OR IN THE AISLE OF THE BUS.

Occasionally, the band performs twice in the same day at two different locations. This means that students must have enough food or money for more than one meal. Please make sure your child is prepared to make their day a success.

PARENT RELEASES - PICKING UP A STUDENT AT THE CONTEST SITE

Occasionally, parents may need to pick up their child directly following the contest. This must be taken care of in writing. When picking up a student at the contest site, the student or parent must give the director of bands a written note, signed by the parent or guardian, before the student may be released. No student will be allowed to leave a contest site with anyone other than his or her parent or another adult and without written permission from their parent or guardian. Parents may be asked for identification if the director is not familiar with the parent. These requirements are in place to protect you and your student. The student is also responsible for having someone else unload their instrument and anything else they are responsible for when returning to the school.

FUND RAISERS - EARNING MONEY TO OFFSET BAND FEES AND EXPENSES

You can raise money for the band expenses with our fund raising efforts. We will give you an opportunity to sell items where **ALL** the **profit** goes toward keeping the fees for your student at a minimum. Various fundraisers are held during the year and may vary from year to year. Every effort is made to make all families aware of all fundraisers available. This season, the fundraisers for the band department will include selling Krispy Kreme Doughnuts and QSP Magazines. There will possibly be other fundraisers to supplement expenses.

PARENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The marching band program provides wonderful opportunities for both you and your child. The marching band, like any great program, requires a great deal of both physical and financial support. Throughout the year there are many opportunities for adults to be involved with the band program. We need your help to continue to be successful . Some of these opportunities are described below.

CHAPERONES

Only parents or guardians may chaperone events in which their students are participating. Only assigned students and chaperones are allowed to ride the bus. Chaperones are required on every bus for every trip the band takes. A chaperone's responsibilities are to make sure the students on the bus are acting appropriately. When returning from a trip, the chaperone will assign students to check the bus to make sure it is clean and that nothing is left on the bus.

We would like to have a minimum of 6 chaperones for each contest day. They should be available to ride the bus to and from the contest.

GUIDELINES FOR CHAPERONES

This program is designed for students. Be patient, flexible, and helpful.
Make sure everyone understands all instructions.
Communicate—get to know the students by name.
Report any rule violations to the director, but don't create problems.
Be courteous and helpful; correct if necessary, but don't antagonize.
You cannot grant a favor for one unless you can do it for everyone!
BE PATIENT—DON'T LOSE YOUR SENSE OF HUMOR!

BOX MOMS AND DADS

Box Moms or Dads are the parents that help with the uniforms during marching season. You and a partner would be in charge of one uniform box with approximately 10-15 students' uniforms for the entire marching season. At every contest, you help the students dress and undress. If you are unable to attend, you are responsible to contact Dee Skaggs for a replacement.

CONCESSIONS - ALL YEAR

This is one of the biggest money makers for the Blackhawk Brigade. We are in charge of the concession stands for most of the sporting activities held at the school. Therefore, we need volunteers to help manage and work the concession stands throughout the entire school year. The money raised from concessions helps to support the general funding of the band programs. This is how many of the bills get paid. Without this great opportunity, our band fees would be much higher. Please plan to give a short amount of your time to work in the concessions stands when asked.

PROP CREW, PIT CREW, LOADING CREW and EQUIPMENT

Equipment parents help all year with whatever needs to be moved, fixed, or built. During marching season, we need parents that will help move all the pit equipment on and off the field. We always have a continuing need for help with building/repairing. Our shows often require props. We need volunteers that can saw, hammer, nail, glue, and paint to build these props. There will also always be an ongoing need for general maintenance on our equipment and props.

TRANSPORTATION

The band uses a semi trailer and tractor to transport our equipment to and from contest sites. If you are interested in driving the semi, please contact the band booster president or the director of bands. Proper licensing is required.

FAQ'S for Parents

Many parents have questions or concerns about things pertaining to band activities and don't know where to get the information or who to ask. We have tried to put together a list of those most frequently asked questions and the answers. We hope this helps!

Q. What kind of food does my child need to take with them to a contest or an all-day practice?

A. They need to have nutritious food and water, lots of water. There is nowhere to buy food usually, and the kids are on a pretty tight schedule. If special arrangements are being made to provide food for the students, those announcements will be sent out separately by e-mail.

Q. How do I get to a show?

A. You can car pool with other parents or drive yourself following the directions that are usually on the show schedules in the band room. You can also follow the band buses to a contest in your own vehicle.

Q. What is an Invitational Performance?

A. Invitationals are marching shows hosted by schools as fundraisers for their band programs. There is always a charge to get in and concessions are offered for spectators. We participate in these Invitationals as practice for the State ISSMA and BOA contests.

Q. What is an ISSMA contest?

A. ISSMA is the Indiana State School Music Association. The contests that they sanction lead up to the State Championship Marching Band Finals. ISSMA contests follow this sequence: District Contest on October 4, 2009; Regional Contest on October 18, 2009; Semi State Contest on October 25, 2009; and State Finals on November 1, 2009. The district and regional locations change each year and will be announced by the directors when they are known.

Q. What is BOA?

A. Bands of America (BOA) hosts national marching band contests around the country. We have not typically attended BOA events. The BOA Grand National finals are held in Indianapolis on November 13-15, 2009. Bands come from all over the United States to compete in this prestigious event.

Q. When does the band practice and what time is practice over?

A. The directors will put out a schedule for band practices. Practices in the evening begin at 5:30 pm and end at 8:30 pm. Your student should be at the school early so they will be ready to practice by 5:30 pm. Practice ends on the field at 8:30 pm and all equipment must be put away. Students usually are not ready to leave until 8:45 pm or so. Please come early to watch the nightly run through. Practice times for Saturdays and contest days will vary. They will be listed on the band practice schedule, band website, and contest itineraries.

Q. How can I get calendars, schedules, and other important information?

A. This information is always available on the table inside the band room. Emails of the performance schedule are also available if you sign up for the mailing list. The calendars are posted on the band web site: www.blackhawkbrigade.com

Q. What if my student loses something while at band?

A. If your student has misplaced anything, please check the lost and found box in the band room. This box is cleaned out on a regular basis. It is encouraged that your student not bring anything valuable to marching band rehearsals or leave anything of value in the band room while the band is away at contests.

Q. If I can't find the answer to my question in this book, who do I ask?

A. Feel free to call the director of bands at 812-936-9984 ext. 230 or email at aylsworth@blackhawkbrigade.com.

2009 Blackhawk Brigade Performance Schedule

8-28	Home Football Game vs. Crawford County
9-5	Springs Valley Festival of Marching Band – French Lick, IN
9-12	Evansville Central Invitational – Evansville, IN
9-18	Home Football Game vs. Linton
9-19	Pride of Paoli Invitational – Paoli, IN
9-26	Avon & Greenwood Invitational– Indianapolis, IN
10-2	Home Football Games vs. Tecumseh
10-3	ISSMA District Contest – Jasper, IN
10-4	Pumpkin Festival Parade
10-9	Home Football Game vs. Perry Central
10-10	Salem Invitational – Salem, IN
10-17	ISSMA Regional Contest – Evansville, IN
10-24	ISSMA Semi State Contest – Franklin, IN
10-31	ISSMA State Finals Contest – Indianapolis, IN

HOME FOOTBALL GAME PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

Students should wear jeans and the assigned band T-shirt for football game performances. Jeans should be normal blue jeans. No capris, shorts, jeans with holes or odd color shading will be allowed. Students should wear tennis shoes to perform in at football games. This will be considered to be the uniform for home football games. Shirts should be tucked in for boys and girls. On occasion due to heat, the band may perform in shorts. Shorts will be provided for such occasions. All school dress code policies will be enforced. Students should also bring black socks to home football games in case uniforms are used.

