



# 2023 - 2024 BRIGADE HANDBOOK

## **Springs Valley Jr. Sr. High School**

326 S. Larry Bird Blvd. French Lick, IN 47432

(812) 936-9984 ext. 230

[www.blackhawkbrigade.com](http://www.blackhawkbrigade.com)

**Our Mission at Springs Valley Community School is to:**

**Inspire** creative learning

**Prepare** accountable & responsible citizens

**Achieve** more by reaching higher, and to

**Succeed** in building a stronger community

## **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. In 2021, the Springs Valley Winter Winds won the IPA Winds Scholastic A Class State Championship. The band has enjoyed being a 30+ time ISSMA State Finalist. In addition, the Brigade is a former four time ISSMA State Champion and eight time ISSMA State Runner-Up (most recently in 2018). 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 students. As with all great programs, there is a lot of preparation and support required to make this a rewarding experience for all! This handbook has been designed to help answer any question you may have. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to call or email using the contact information below.

### **DIRECTOR & ASSISTANTS**

Summer Sneed-Mueller - Director of Bands

Justin "Beavis" Wininger - Assistant Director

Patty Cleveland - Band Administrative Assistant

### **DESIGN TEAM & STAFF**

Andrew Alspaugh - Music & Visual

Ben Lee - Music Arranger

Eric Berger - Drill Design

Josh Conley - Choreography

Kim Sommer - Music & Visual

Brian Elkins - Percussion

Brooklyn Robison - Percussion

McCall Babcock - Color Guard

April Mathers - Color Guard

Grayce Judy - Color Guard

Joyce Kim-Rohrer- Woodwinds

[smueller@svalley.k12.in.us](mailto:smueller@svalley.k12.in.us) Contact the above personnel at 812-936-9984 ext. 230

# INFORMATION

## BAND BOOSTER OFFICERS

President – Justin “Beavis” Winger – [president@blackhawkbrigade.com](mailto:president@blackhawkbrigade.com)

Vice President – Julie Woolsey – [vp@blackhawkbrigade.com](mailto:vp@blackhawkbrigade.com)

Treasurer – Sasha Robison – [treasurer@blackhawkbrigade.com](mailto:treasurer@blackhawkbrigade.com)

Secretary – Rebecca Elkins – [secretary@blackhawkbrigade.com](mailto:secretary@blackhawkbrigade.com)

**All information regarding marching season or band can be found in four locations.**

### 1. BAND BOOSTER MEETINGS

Booster Meetings are held as needed, 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 booster meetings regularly.

### 2. WEBSITE & SOCIAL NETWORKING

The band has a website where current information is posted along with the calendar of events, pictures, and videos. The website is [www.blackhawkbrigade.com](http://www.blackhawkbrigade.com). In addition, the band posts information via Facebook on the [Springs Valley Blackhawk Brigade](#) page, the [Springs Valley Band Booster](#) page, and on Instagram [@sv.blackhawk.brigade](#).

### 3. EMAILS & Brigade Parent FB Messenger

Updates and other important information will be sent out through the Brigade messenger group on Facebook. There will be an emailing list, upon request. The FB Messenger group is an effective and important means of communication, so please make sure you have signed up for the group message list. Please let us know if you have updated your facebook or email, or need to be added. Send your information to [smueller@svalley.k12.in.us](mailto:smueller@svalley.k12.in.us)

### 4. BAND ROOM & GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Important date information will be listed on the board and the Google Classroom. Please make sure that you as a student are in the class, and parents are signed up to receive classroom notifications. Any handouts will also be on the Google Classroom. The google class code is [‘ofytmlv’](#).

# ATTENDANCE POLICY

## **For Performances, Rehearsals, Fall Break, and Band Camp**

Attendance at rehearsals and performances are required. This includes fall break & band camp. All expected absences must be reported to either Mrs. Mueller or Justin “Beavis” Winger prior to the absence or by the next rehearsal. Absences may be excused for the following reasons: funeral services for family or close family friends, wedding services for immediate family members (not your long lost cousin), illness that would require a student to miss a regular school day (if you’re just sneezin’ - you should be at rehearsal). Splitting time between activities requires a discussion with both activity sponsors on how time will be split evenly. If you are splitting time between extra-curricular activities, Mrs. Mueller must be notified at the beginning of the season. Practice, game, or meet schedules should be given to Mrs. Mueller as soon as possible. Absences **will not** be excused for off-season athletic activities. **Work & vacations are not an excused absence.** If you are employed, you must give your supervisor your band schedule.

## **Unexcused Absences**

Everyone is equally important in band. We are only as strong as our weakest link. Unexcused absences from a practice or performance may result in the loss of a performing spot and a failing grade in the class. An unreported absence will require a written note/email from the student’s legal guardian to Mrs. Mueller in order to consider the absence excused. Excessive absences may result in loss of performing privileges. Numerous absences within the performing group may result in cancellation of contests. We have to be present to play.

## **Tardies**

EARLY IS ON TIME – ON TIME IS LATE. Each student is expected to be on time to all rehearsals and performance functions. If a student will be tardy to a rehearsal, the legal guardian must provide written notice prior to the scheduled event. Please DO NOT send word with another student or parent. Two unexcused tardies will result in one unexcused absence being applied to the student. Good attendance is important for success and is a great educational tool for teaching students responsibility, punctuality, character, and accountability!

# REHEARSALS

## Needs for Rehearsal

For rehearsals to run smoothly the following items must be brought to each rehearsal.

1. Music/Binders - All students must have music for every indoor rehearsal. Outdoor rehearsals will not always require music and binders, instructions will be given as needed.
2. Pencils - Anytime we are rehearsing with music, students must have pencils. Writing in your music is essential to learning the music, memorization, and learning drill movements.
3. Drill coordinates - All Brigade members will be given drill coordinates and a lanyard to wear while learning and cleaning drill.

**Each of these items ^above^ can be kept in your binder/band locker.**

4. Knee Pads (provided) - When learning and incorporating choreography we will often use knee pads. Bring them with you to the practice field when we start incorporating choreography.
5. Water Jug - You will always need your water jug for every rehearsal. Fill it before each rehearsal, and do not forget to bring it with you.
6. Sunglasses - There will often be times where you will be facing the sun. Bring sunglasses so you can still see while marching.
7. Good Attitude - A good attitude is essential to every rehearsal. Everyone deals with outside factors, struggles, emotions, and issues. Leave those at the door. We are here to accomplish a common goal; to continue to improve ourselves and our skills to make sure that each rehearsal and performance is better than our last.
8. Instrument/Equipment - You are responsible for getting your instrument and your assigned equipment to the rehearsal location before rehearsal and onto the field each time we perform. You will receive these assignments at the start of band camp. You are expected to assist others as needed.
9. Peer pressure - In band we want to encourage positive peer pressure. Always be the best version of yourself and encourage others to do the same. You choose the way people view you by the way that you act and respond to others around you. You never know who is watching or listening. Work to improve yourself every day! Strive to do your best, 100% of the time.

## **Clothing**

Students should wear comfortable clothing to all rehearsals. Shirts, shorts, sweats, loose fitting pants, socks, and good tennis shoes are the most acceptable attire. Supportive shoes, like tennis shoes, are recommended for appropriate marching technique. No students should be wearing flip-flops in a rehearsal. Check the weather before you leave the house. It is the student's responsibility to plan your attire accordingly with the weather & temperatures. Be prepared for the sun, heat, rain, or cold. When after school rehearsals begin, students must bring proper attire to change into. If students are coming to practice from an extracurricular activity they will be given time to change. Mrs. Mueller reserves the right to deem specific attire inappropriate according to school policy.

## **Sunburn Care and Precaution**

Our biggest and most troublesome problem at band camp is often sunburn and dehydration. Some students could even develop second-degree burns from being out in the sun with little to no protection. We suggest a sunblock of SPF 15-30, with regular reapplication.

Tips to avoid sunburn:

- If you burn easily, DEFINITELY use SPF 30 or higher AND reapply sunscreen regularly.
- Prevent sunburned lips by using Blistex Daily Conditioning treatment with SPF 15. Regular chapsticks are a beacon to the sun and will make them burn faster.
- If your nose burns easily, use Zinc Oxide paste.
- Wearing a hat can help prevent sunburn on the face and scalp.
- Drink plenty of water during each water break. Even if the sun isn't out, or you are not thirsty, **drink water**. Staying hydrated is key when taking care of yourself and preventing heat stroke.
- Use aloe vera, after you are out of the sun, to relieve sun burns when you get home

## **Band Camp**

Band Camp is an integral part of the learning and teaching process for the Brigade. During the Pre-Camp, new marchers will be taught marching technique and music skills. Also, returning members will continue to improve their own marching technique and music fundamentals. During the Full Band Camp (usually 2nd & 3rd week of July, weekdays only), the band will begin learning drill, will continue to work on show music, learn guard routines, and many other techniques that are necessary to become a top-notch marching unit. Again, many valuable concepts are introduced at this time, therefore it is mandatory that all students attend all rehearsals and camps prior to the beginning of school. Please refer to the schedule on our website, on the google classroom, and in this handbook to find rehearsal dates/times. If there are questions please read the attendance section about how to report an absence.

## **Starting Rehearsals**

All rehearsals will start promptly at the listed time. EARLY IS ON TIME – ON TIME IS LATE. Arrive early to gather your things and move equipment. Any equipment should be fully in place before the start of rehearsal. In full band we will always start with breathing exercises and stretches. All students are expected to participate in the warm-up stretches. From there sections will split into individual warm-ups. Warm-ups in each section are integral to set the tone for the rehearsal. A fully warmed up band, means a fully functioning rehearsal.

## **During Rehearsal**

During rehearsal all focus will be on the predetermined goal for that rehearsal, announced after the warm up. Phones should only be used for tuning purposes. To accomplish all that we want for the fall season, all talking must stop when instructions are given from the headset or a staff member addressing the full band. When the Drum Major announces 'set', all talking and movement must stop on the field. Following these rules will allow us to accomplish our goals without losing rehearsal time. Drill coordinate lanyards should be worn while learning and cleaning drill. Water breaks will be given throughout rehearsals. There will be 2 kinds of water breaks, a 5-minute break, or a gush & go. During a 5 minute break, the drum major will announce "back to set" at the end of the break time. A gush & go is as it sounds, grab a drink and run back out. Finally, rehearsal ends at the time listed on the schedule. We will always come together as a band at the end of the rehearsal for announcements, comments, and to 'break down'. After rehearsal, students are expected to move all equipment back to the band room and in its proper place. Students can leave after their assigned equipment is put away.

# **CONTEST AND INVATIONALS**

**Performances - All are mandatory!** Any absence must be approved by Mrs. Mueller. By each Wednesday of a contest week an itinerary detailing the timeline for the contest day, meal plans, and directions will be available in the band room, on google classroom, through FB message group, and on Brigade FB page. Encourage your student(s) to bring an itinerary home so you will be aware of the specific times. Parents, please plan to attend as many functions as possible.

## **Football Game Performances**

The Brigade will perform at most, if not all home football games. Students will be expected to stay after school for football games. Students will wear Brigade wear (shirts, shorts, sweats),

jeans, black socks, and tennis shoes. If we are wearing uniforms during half time, students will leave at the end of the first quarter to change and will meet back up at the tennis courts to warm-up before half time. Students will be allowed to eat before the game begins, and after they are dismissed from the stands. There will be NO FOOD in the stands. Water is allowed. Our stands will be taped off for our use only. Parents and family may sit in front of the band, others are not allowed in the stands with the band. Students are expected to bring the following in the stands: a metal stand, pep band binder, and instrument.

### **Parent Preview Performance**

The parent preview performance will normally take place towards the end of the season, in October. Students will arrive for a regular Saturday rehearsal, then professional pictures will be taken after snack break. After your pictures are done, you may come back to the band room, but should stay in uniform. At the Parent Preview, the band will host a Silent Auction. Items will range from baskets put together from classes to community donations, and Brigade memorabilia from years past (trophies, plaques, pictures, etc...). The Half-Pot Raffle will be announced at this time as well. The preview performance will take place after pictures and the silent auction are completed.

**Competitions - All are mandatory!** Any absence must be approved by the Band Director. A general rule for competitions is to follow the flow of your seniors. Each competition day will be different from others based on the time we are leaving, where we are going, and the progress of the show. At each competition we should be adding more of what we have learned of the show to the performance. We will generally start out with a morning rehearsal (which MUST start on time), a snack break, then time to change into Brigade wear. Seniors (or highest grade students) are responsible for ensuring their full sections' instruments or equipment are lined up and ready to be put on the semi before snack break and changing clothes. Upon arrival at the competition site, students should leave any belongings, including cell phones on the bus when we leave for warm-ups. We will follow this timeline: unload the semi trailer, change into uniforms, physical warm-up, musical warm-up, transition to performance, perform, back to the busses to change (we will stay in uniform if we are one of the last two bands to perform), then back to the stands to watch the awards ceremony. Students should generally bring money to eat at the concession stands for dinner. \$10 to \$15 should suffice. Remember, there should be no movement in the stands when a band is performing. We also follow the general rule that we do not clap for ourselves when we are announced in competition.



**At ALL performances and competitions Band Members are to act courteously and dress appropriately.** This includes at SVHS, host schools, on buses, and festival facilities. Students are to show respect for all people, property and local rules at all times. Members will respect the equipment they are using including but not limited to sound equipment, poles, silks, rifles, sabers, uniforms, props, carts, and transportation vehicles. Students will be responsible for replacing equipment they damage. A Brigade Wear dress code will be announced for each performance/ competition. All clothing will be provided, senior jackets are allowed. Non-Brigade clothing like yoga pants and clothing with holes cannot be worn at competitions and performances.

### **Parents at Competitions**

Competitions and performances are a great 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. Remember, no one moves in the stands while bands are performing! When driving to the contests, carpooling is encouraged. Any parents that are not assisting with entry on and off the field for performance will need to buy their own entry ticket. After the contest, you may come to the bus area to celebrate with the students.

### **Adults on Field**

The Brigade always needs adult helpers to move equipment. This includes getting on & off the field for competition, performances, and off the semi trailer. These adults will be given passes to enter the field & competition. More information in the Parent Volunteer section.

### **Buses**

Respect chaperones, bus drivers, and event personnel just as you do the staff. Before you get on the bus: 1. GO TO THE BATHROOM, even if you don't have to, 2. Make sure you have everything you need, including money for food and meals. Buses will be clean at the end of the trip. Remember the Golden Rule: Pick up trash, even if it's not yours. **Seniors** it is your responsibility to make sure all buses are cleaned.

### **Bus-Carry On's**

- Bottled water/water jug, snacks, fruit, etc.
- Extra jacket or sweatshirt and pants for cool late nights. Brigade sweats are provided
- Necessary band items and personal items (only items that will fit in your seat)
- Pillow and/or blanket

No Glass Containers are allowed on the bus.

Nothing is Allowed in front of the Emergency Doors or in the aisle of the bus.

## **Parent Releases - PICKING UP A STUDENT AT THE CONTEST SITE**

Mrs. Mueller must be notified in advance of any Brigade member being picked up by a parent or guardian at a contest site (not riding the bus home). Students may not leave with someone else's parents even if consent is given. The only exception will be those students carpooling to another school event. It will be the responsibility of the student leaving to make sure their equipment and uniform make it back to the semi trailer the day of the performance and are put away appropriately by a fellow student.

## **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! Only students and assigned 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 adhering to bus rules, acting appropriately, and to do a headcount before the buses leave. When returning from a trip, the chaperone will make sure seniors check the bus to ensure it is clean and that there are no items left. We would like to have a minimum of 2 chaperones, one per bus for each contest day. They should be available to ride the bus to and from the contest. Mrs. Mueller will check in with each chaperone before leaving SV. Anyone wanting to chaperone should communicate with Mrs. Mueller at the beginning of contest week.

### **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 directly 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!

### **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 much higher. Please plan to give a short amount of your time to work in the concession stands when asked. Students are required to work two concession stand slots for the year. Once in the Fall (JV & JH Football games and Volleyball), and once in the Spring (Boys and Girls Basketball). Students & Parents that work will earn \$20 towards their/their child's fair share for each game worked.

### **Prop Crew, Pit Crew, and Equipment Loading Crew**

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 prop and pit equipment on and off the field. We always have a continuous need for adults to help with building and repairing. We need volunteers that can saw, hammer, nail, glue, and paint to build props. There will be practices for moving equipment normally on the last full run of rehearsal before the band leaves for competition. This full run will be noted on the itinerary. Students, please encourage your parents to help. Parents, help encourage family or alumni to help as well.

### **Transportation**

The band uses a semi trailer 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.

## **UNIFORM CARE PROCEDURES**

All uniforms are kept in the uniform room at the school. Students may not take their uniforms or new Brigade wear home. Wearing our uniform comes with a sense of pride, tradition, and excellence. For this reason, we must treat our uniforms with respect. Please do **YOUR PART** to keep our uniforms in great shape. Students should always bring their own black socks. This is the only clothing item we ask you to bring. Our new Brigade uniforms for 2023 will have extra uniform components, please make sure to put your uniform on and take it off with care. It matters how you hang your uniform up. Take the time to follow procedures carefully. Band students are not permitted to eat while in uniform and only water is to be consumed during this time. Students are allowed to eat in Brigade wear, but not allowed to use/wear body paint or work on props while wearing these clothes. Brigade wear must be worn under uniforms.

## COST

Each student has a beginning “My Fair Share” balance of \$220.00 due for the year. The Fair Share helps to cover some of the costs involved to compete at a Championship level. The money is used to pay for instruments, music, uniforms, flags, etc. Fundraisers are the best way to work toward paying your “Fair Share”. In addition to the fundraisers, each parent or (students at non-performing games), who signs up and works the concession stand will be credited \$20.00 for each time they work. The sign up for working the concession stand will be provided to the Band via Google Classroom by the Band Booster Club. The Blackhawk Brigade will have the following fundraisers, shown below, with profits credited to each student based on their sales to offset their “My Fair Share”.

<b>BLACKHAWK BRIGADE FUNDRAISING SCHEDULE</b>	
<b>Peach Sale-</b> students earn \$5 per box of peaches sold	July
<b>Half Pot Raffle-</b> students earn \$5 per ticket sold	August-October
<b>Krispy Kreme Fundraiser-</b> earn \$6 per dozen donuts sold	August
<b>Springs Valley Festival of Bands Sponsorships-</b> various sponsorship amounts	August/September
<b>Texas Roadhouse Rolls-</b> earn \$3 per dozen rolls sold	November
<b>Strawberry Sale-</b> earn \$7 per flat sold	February
<b>Concessions-</b> earn \$20 per game worked; this includes both student and parent workers. <b>ALL STUDENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO WORK 2 GAMES (one in the fall and one in the winter)</b>	August-February

To pay any amount to your students’ “My Fair Share”, make checks payable to Springs Valley Band Booster Club. Note on the envelope “My Fair Share” and the student to be credited (envelopes are available in the band room near the back door).

## **BAND ROOM PROCEDURES AND GENERAL RULES**

The use of the band facilities before, after, and during school is a privilege. Students should only be in the band room when a director or staff is present.

1. No gum or food is allowed in the band room or during practices, rehearsals, or performances. Only bottled water is permitted in rehearsals and the band room.
2. No phones during rehearsal or practices, except for tuning purposes.
3. For class, students must be ready with their instrument, music or equipment, and a pencil before the bell rings. This includes percussion and color guard, who will rehearse in their own specified locations. Students are expected to start warming up or transitioning as soon as possible.
4. Restroom breaks should be taken between classes, in the transition period before practices, and during breaks. Class & rehearsal time is essential, take care of your needs at the appropriate times.
5. Check the board each day for upcoming events and the count down to the next competition.
6. When class/rehearsal is finished, instruments, equipment, and music binders should be put away in the assigned storage areas or locked in lockers.
7. Chairs and stands will often move a lot throughout the room. At the end of each class/rehearsal the band room should be put back in order before students leave. Chairs back in arcs, stands in rows.
8. Do not leave the room or field until you are dismissed. If you need to leave for any reason, you should notify a staff member. Remember most needs should be taken care of before class/rehearsal or during breaks.
9. The Drum Major will start each rehearsal warm-up. When "set" is announced all students should be in their warm-up set up and ready to start with breathing and stretching.
10. All talking must stop when instructions are given from the headset or a staff member addressing the full band or section. When the Drum Major announces 'set', all talking and movement must stop on the field or in class.

## USE AND CARE OF MUSIC & INSTRUMENTS

1. Do not throw, fold, tear or otherwise mutilate music. Your instrument is yours for the full season. It is your responsibility to take care of it and let Mrs. Mueller know of any instrument issues or problems (bent keys, dents, air leaks, need of new reeds).
2. Only use a pencil to write on your music. Be neat when marking music, you will need to mark counts for sets, make rehearsal notes/markings, and/or write in choreography reminders. The point of marking your part is to help you perform better. Anything you write should be clearly read.
3. Students will be held financially responsible for music or instruments that are not cared for properly. Further, students may be subject to disciplinary measures in addition to the financial responsibility for equipment that is not cared for properly. Normal wear and tear is expected, but students should be sure to take care of their equipment.
4. Each student will be assigned a binder according to instrument and part. Each binder will have the student's name and the instrument they play written on it. The binder is to be kept in your locker and treated with care. The following is to be kept in these binders:
  - Circle of Fifths
  - Inside The Circle (for your specific instrument)
  - Marching Band music, (Opener, Ballad, and Closer and Drill Coordinate Lanyard)
  - Current Concert music that is being played.
5. Separate, Pep Band binders, will be used during games. Parts and instrumentation will be determined by Mrs. Mueller. Each binder has the instrument name on them. These binders are not to be kept in your lockers, they should stay in the cabinet at the front of the room.
6. Do not put binders and/or music in your instrument case.
7. Do not place stickers or other decorations on school-owned equipment.
8. Only your instrument, music binder, and Brigade issued backpack are allowed in your locker. Other personal belongings should not be stored there. This includes any food, candy, or other non-water drinks.

## **BAND STRUCTURE & CHAIN OF COMMAND**

All successful organizations have structure. With the Brigade having so many moving parts, there are specific people designated as leaders. The Drum Major, Field Commander, and other Student Leaders have been given these titles because of their knowledge, leadership, and commitment to the program.

### **Student Leadership Roles**

Section Leaders: The Woodwind & Brass Section Leaders assist in relaying important information from the staff and Drum Majors to the band. They will also run sectionals and assist in marching tutoring when needed.

Captains: The Color Guard Captains assists in teaching guard choreography or tutoring specific students, running sectionals and warm-ups when needed, and coordinating practice during 7th period. The Drum Captain assists in tutoring students that may need assistance, running sectionals and warm-ups when needed, and coordinating practice during 7th period. The Color Guard & Drum Captains act as a liaison between the students and staff.

Field Commander: The Field Commander carries the responsibility of taking leadership on the field. The Field Commander may also assist in the teaching of drill to individual students who need help, running a sectional, marching tutoring, and any other duty given by the directors

Drum Major: The Drum Major carries the responsibility of field conducting. The Drum Major may also assist in the teaching of drill, running a sectional, marching tutoring, checking attendance, and any other duty given by the directors.

### **Chain of Command**

For instance, if you need valve oil or a reed, ask your section leader. If everyone asked Mrs. Mueller or Beavis for something every time it was needed, we would never get anything done. So, please follow the “Chain of Command”.

First: Section Leaders, Color Guard Captain, Drum Captain

Second: Drum Major & Field Commander

Third: Staff

Finally: Director

This chain should be followed when issues, concerns, or questions arise. Band members are expected to respect the guidance, follow instructions, and report concerns to the designated leaders. Students are encouraged to work within the peer chain of command first with most concerns. For general questions, normally follow the “ask 3 before me” rule– ask another student, a section member, or your section leader first. If your question cannot be answered or resolved, move on to the next tier by asking the Drum Major or Field Commander. There are some issues that should be brought directly to the attention of Staff and the Director. Any bullying, discrimination, harassment of any kind, or harmful behaviors should be directly reported to a Staff member or the Director.

In general, respect others and your surroundings and assume responsibility for your actions. Have space for grace for your fellow Brigade members. Everyone is bound to have a bad day, have empathy and give each other space and grace when needed. Remember, a good leader (LEADS): listens, educates, advocates, delegates, and supports others!

## FAQS FOR PARENTS

### **Q. What is an ISSMA contest?**

A. ISSMA is the Indiana State School Music Association. The contests they sanction lead up to the State Championship Marching Band Finals. ISSMA contests follow this sequence: Regional Contest on October 7, 2023; Semi State Contest on October 21, 2023; and State Finals on October 28, 2023. The regional locations change each year and will be announced by the directors when they are known.

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

A. Before an all day practice or a competition, students need to have nutritious food and water, lots of water. They should bring these kinds of snacks/foods as well. During snack breaks or lunch on Saturdays and before competitions students are on a pretty tight schedule. They do not have time to leave school to pick up food, but it can be dropped off at the specified snack/lunch time. AGAIN, students should not leave to go get food due to time constraints. Otherwise students should bring their own lunch. Students will normally be able to buy food at concession stands. If special arrangements are being made to provide food for the students for either lunch or dinner, it will be announced with contest information.

### **Q. How do I get to a show?**

A. You can carpool with other parents or drive yourself following the directions that are usually included with contest location information. You can also follow the band buses to a contest in your own vehicle. Please know that there are entry fees at most contests. Specifically at State Finals, tickets will be sold in advance.

### **Q. When does the band practice? What time is practice over?**

A. See the schedule on the Google Classroom Calendar and the band's website. Full Band & Music Rehearsals afterschool will be 3:15 - 5:00pm. Evening rehearsals will be 5:30 - 8:30pm. Color Guard Rehearsals will be 3:30 - 5:30pm. Percussion Rehearsals will be 5:30 - 7:30pm. Practice times for Saturdays and contest days will vary. Your student should be at the school early and ready to start practice prior to scheduled time. Practice ends at the scheduled time, but the band will always break down together and will have announcements afterwards. After rehearsals all equipment must be put away FULLY.

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

A. Check the google classroom calendar, website [www.blackhawkbrigade.com](http://www.blackhawkbrigade.com) & Facebook page, and the Brigade FB Messenger group. Or sign up for the email list to receive emails.



## **2023 Blackhawk Brigade Performance Schedule**

8/18 Home Football Game SV vs. Eastern Greene

9/9 Paoli Contest

9/16 Greenwood Contest

9/22 Home Football Game SV v Crawford

9/23 Springs Valley Festival of Marching Band – French Lick, IN

9/29 Home Football Games SV vs. Tecumseh

9/30 Jasper Invitational

10/6 Home Football Game SV vs. Perry Central

10/7 ISSMA Regional Contest – Evansville, IN

10/8 Pumpkin Festival Parade

10/21 ISSMA Semi State Contest – Franklin, IN

10/28 ISSMA State Finals Contest – Indianapolis, IN

### **BAND CAMPS**

6/26 - 6/28 Rookies 2 pm, Pre-Camp Full Band Camp 4:30 - 7 pm

7/10 - 7/14 Full Band Camp, 2 pm - 8 pm

7/17 - 7/21 Full Band Camp 2 pm - 8 pm

Camp is required of all Marching Band Students. The Camps will be held at Springs Valley High School. Parent volunteers are needed to be in attendance to ensure sufficient coverage is available to assist with needs as they arise. Donations of snacks and clear drinks are also needed to keep our band hydrated and nourished while practicing. Please let us know if you are interested.

### **FALL BREAK PRACTICE SCHEDULE**

10/13 Mini Camp 12 - 4:00pm

10/18 Mini Camp 2pm - 8pm

10/19 Mini Camp & Pictures 2pm - 6pm, Community Performance 7pm

10/20 Mini Camp 12 - 4:00pm

**Blackhawk Brigade**  
**2023-2024 Student Information Sheet**  
**Student Information**



Full Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENTS: Complete all sizes with the correct size of the student NOW! This is the size the student will be assigned and responsible for. You will not be able to change sizes! If in doubt, go bigger to ensure an appropriate fit. You will be assigned accordingly.**

Shirt Size (Adult S, M, L, XL, XXL, 3X): \_\_\_\_\_ Shoe Size: M or W \_\_\_\_\_

Short Size: (Adult S, M, L, XL, XXL) \_\_\_\_\_ Student Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Information**

Father/Guardian

Mother/Guardian

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Field Trip/Activity Release Form**

Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ My signature below verifies that I approve \_\_\_\_\_

**(Name of Student)**

to attend all competitions, activities, and functions with the Springs Valley Blackhawk Brigade Marching Band for the 2023-2024 school year.

X \_\_\_\_\_

**(Signature of Parent/Guardian)**

# Emergency Information

## Springs Valley Jr. – Sr. High School

### Blackhawk Brigade



In the event of any injury or sickness every effort will be made to contact the parents first. If the parents cannot be reached, information on this sheet of paper will be utilized.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Student Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Employment \_\_\_\_\_

Family Insurance: \_\_\_\_\_ Policy # \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

In case of serious injury and the parent or family doctor cannot be reached call

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Student \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any allergic reactions: \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Treatment, Etc:** In the event of an emergency, My son/daughter \_\_\_\_\_ may be examined and/or treated as long as the band director or a responsible adult accompanies him/her to the medical facility and remains with him/her.

**Release:**

The band director, the accompanying adult, the Band Boosters, and Springs Valley Jr. – Sr. High School are hereby relieved of any liability in the event of any injury, sickness, medical attention, or other emergency involving my son/daughter.

X \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent – Guardian Signature**

**Springs Valley Community Schools – Band Department  
Parent Permission to Tape/Photograph Students**



I hereby grant permission for my child \_\_\_\_\_

(Print Child's Name)

to be filmed, video taped, and/or photographed, for public information and instructional purposes for the Springs Valley Community School Band Department. I understand that my child's photograph or other visual image may be reproduced in a newspaper, film, website, or video tape for public viewing.

X \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent /Guardian Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_(Date)

The tapes/photographs may be used for, but not limited to:

- Lessons for students
- Blackhawk Brigade Website
- Presentations for community groups and parents
- Band department brochures, newsletters, and other band department publications & Photo CD collections, slideshows, and fundraisers
- Newspapers or magazines to accompany a story about the band
- Concert/Contest video recording Benefits to students and band department
- Teaching methods can be shared to refine teachers' instructional skills
- Films and video tapes can be used as an instructional tool for students
- Successful programs can be shared with the community



# Brigade Fair Share Agreement

The Springs Valley Blackhawk Brigade has been a state championship competitor for many years. Maintaining that type of excellence requires many resources including instructional staff, uniforms, flags, music, props, drill, etc. We are very lucky to have a wonderful supporting organization in the Springs Valley Band Boosters whose members work tirelessly to fund our needs. We also benefit from a supportive school corporation that provides instruments to our students in grades 5-12 with very minimal rental costs. Most competitive marching band programs pass along the majority of costs through participant fees, but we have always operated under the philosophy that no student should be prevented from participating in the Blackhawk Brigade because they are unable to afford the cost.

In order to keep costs minimal we ask that each member of the Brigade contribute through the “My Fair Share” program. Students can earn Fair Share credit by participating in fundraisers, working concessions, and securing donations. The Fair Share amount for 2023 is \$220 per member. We have included our list of fundraising opportunities below so families can plan ahead. Parents are welcome to make out of pocket contributions in place of participating in fundraisers, but that is not required if a student’s Fair Share money is earned through any of the methods below.

<b>BLACKHAWK BRIGADE FUNDRAISING SCHEDULE</b>	
<b>Peach Sale-</b> students earn \$5 per box of peaches sold	July
<b>Half Pot Raffle-</b> students earn \$5 per ticket sold	August-October
<b>Krispy Kreme Fundraiser-</b> earn \$6 per dozen donuts sold	August
<b>Springs Valley Festival of Bands Sponsorships-</b> various sponsorship amounts	August/September
<b>Texas Roadhouse Rolls-</b> earn \$3 per dozen rolls sold	November
<b>Strawberry Sale-</b> earn \$7 per flat sold	February
<b>Concessions-</b> earn \$20 per game worked; this includes both student and parent workers. ALL STUDENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO WORK 2 GAMES (one in the fall and one in the winter)	August-February

## DEADLINES

**November 1, 2023- \$110 in earnings due**

**March 1, 2024- \$220 in earnings due**

*\* Fair share amounts must be paid before fundraiser money can be applied to any future trip balances.*

*I understand my responsibilities in earning my “fair share” of Blackhawk Brigade expenses through fundraising, working concessions, etc. If I choose not to participate in fundraisers I understand I will need to pay my Fair Share balance out of pocket.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Student Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent Signature*

# HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

2023 - 2024

## Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of every parent and guardian to see that the policies outlined in the HANDBOOK are followed and that the forms in the back are signed and returned. This states that you UNDERSTAND the policies and any questions are to be directed to the director.

Please read the front and back of each page. Once done, complete all requested information. Please sign as requested and RETURN ALL 5 PAGES listed below:

1. Student Information Sheet
2. Emergency Information Sheet
3. Permission to Tape/Photograph
4. Brigade Fair Share Agreement
5. Handbook Acknowledgement Form (This page)

**I have read and understand the policies of the Springs Valley High School Band Department.**

STUDENT'S NAME (print) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_  
(parent or guardian's signature) (date)

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_  
(student's signature) (date)

**THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!**

**MUSIC MAKES A DIFFERENCE!!!**

Band matters because you build friendships and skills to carry you through life – wherever it takes you.

Band enhances creative thinking and is an enriching creative outlet.

Students in band learn so much more than music (which is proven to impact brain power!). They learn self discipline, team skills, goal setting, and work ethic.

Band is an activity that involves all students at all levels of interest and ability.

Because kids need positive role models in an atmosphere where kids learn how to respectfully work together towards a goal that is bigger than themselves.

Music helps educate the whole child, and improves brain function.

Looking forward to a wonderful year with you all!

~Mrs. Summer Sneed-Mueller