

## COMPETITIONS—INFORMATION AND HELPFUL HINTS!!!

The Spring Valley High School band participates in a variety of competitions during the fall. A panel of judges will evaluate the band in various categories, and most will record their comments on either cassette tapes or digital media cards (i.e. SD cards). Adjudicators usually include:

**Music Performance:** This judge evaluates the balance and blend between the winds and percussion sections, technical accuracy of notes and musical expression, and the difficulty of the music being played.

**Marching Performance:** This judge evaluates the visual performance created by marching and maneuvers. This includes step accuracy, intervals, posture, horn carriage, difficulty of drill, and the amount of movement used.

**GE (General Effect):** The “total effect.” This judge determines how the music and the marching coordinate together to make the show pleasing and exciting. Music and marching interpretation!!

**Percussion :** This judge evaluates all the technical and ensemble effects of both the battery (on-field drum line) and the front ensemble.

**Auxiliary Units:** These judges evaluate the contributions of the Field Commanders, Color Guard, Majorettes, Feature Twirlers, or Dance Teams to the band’s performance. Individual technique, ensemble effect, routine difficulty, and coordination with the instrumentalists are also determined.

### HOW CAN PARENTS, FRIENDS, AND FAMILY MEMBERS HELP ON COMPETITION DAY??

1. Wear SVHS Band shirts or the school colors.
2. Sit in a group with other SVHS supporters. Arriving early to a festival ensures that you can “snag the best seats.”
3. Participate in the “Booster Spirit Cans,” if available. These are usually displayed near the front gate or the concession stand at the festival. This is a contest where each school’s boosters contribute money in honor of their band. The school with the most money in their can (or bucket) usually receives  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the total proceeds, with the remaining  $\frac{1}{2}$  going to the host band of the competition.
4. Buy an “Air Gram” or “Band – O – Gram” for your student. Usually costing \$1 - \$2 each, these allow you to send a brief message to your student that will be announced over the speaker system before their performance.
5. The cost of attending a festival usually ranges from \$5 - \$15 per person.
6. The total number of participating bands determines the length of the competition. Schedules have been known to change at the last minute. Competitions and festivals can start early in the morning, in the afternoon, or even in the early evening.
7. Be prepared for ANY type of weather. Bands usually march in rain, snow, or other weather conditions. We DO NOT march in lightening!
8. As you leave each competition, please dispose of your food containers and other garbage in trash cans and recycling containers. Volunteers from the host school clean up after the festival, and we want to show our “Timberwolf Pride” by always disposing of garbage properly!!