# Upcoming Events

## July 19

Boosters Meeting 7:00 p.m. in the band room

**July 21**

Concession stand clean up day at 1:00

## Band Camp

August 1-3, 10:00 to 5:00 p.m.

August 6-10, 10-1: and Varsity Band 2:00 to 5:00

August 13 & 14 same schedule as above

August 16 & 17 Evening Rehearsals

Drumline will practice an additional two hours each band camp day

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The Spirit of Spring Mills Cardinals Band

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| Dear Parent,  I’d like to take this opportunity to welcome you to “The Spirit of Spring Mills” Cardinals Band. This journey will be a memorable one. As you know the band always has it groupies and that’s us…the parents and family and friends of the members of our band. We are the cheerleaders, chaperones, fundraisers, and part of what will make our band year a success. The following is just some tips as well as some information that will help you along the way, hopefully. Welcome aboard “the crazy train.” |
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**The Band**

The band throughout the years has had many accomplishments. We were able to participate in parades, host our very first seasonal and regional competitions, purchase sousaphones, placed first in many of our events, and received our first superior rating through adjudication. What does all this mean? It means a lot… and we hope to have another successful year and we need your help to do it. If you have no clue what’s going on, it is ok, we have all been there and are happy to help you with any questions you may have.

**Boosters and Meetings**

The boosters are the family members of the members of the band. The group works together throughout the year to plan fundraisers, events, and any decisions that need to be made. Typically we meet on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 in the band room. We have a president, vice president, concession chair, secretary and treasurer. Everyone is encouraged to attend because after the senior parents leave it will be up to you to continue supporting the band and being a part of its success. Minutes from the meeting will also be emailed and put on the Facebook page. If you miss a meeting and would like to know what was discussed please contact Dana Phelps, our Secretary.

**Band Camp Survival**

This one time at band camp… many, many children swore they would be just fine not wearing sunscreen during what was the hottest week of the summer. Needless to say, upon picking up said children they resembled lobsters. If you are lucky they might say those magical words of “I should have listened to you and wore the sunscreen.” The kids will need to wear light colored clothing, wear sunscreen, and have a water bottle. They will be learning to march, and their music for the year. We do need volunteers to help during band camp. There is a band camp sign up through sign up genius that you can use to volunteer.

**Fees/Uniforms**

* The band fee is $200.00, and $150.00 of it can be worked off through working at the concessions. The remaining $50.00 cannot be worked off and must be paid at band camp. The $50.00 band fee helps with operational costs of the band including instructor costs, travel expenses, and concession stand startup costs,
* Additional purchases also due at band camp are shoes cost $30.00, and white band pants are $60.00, and spirit wear
* If for any reason you cannot pay or need to setup a payment plan please speak to our treasurer Shannon Crawford. Our Treasurer.

**Fundraising**

The band is almost completely dependent on the money we raise through fundraising. We pay for everything from transportation to judge’s fees, uniform maintenance, and cleanup after games, and instruments. This is where our fundraising efforts come in. We have hosted car washes, fundraising nights at Sweet Frog and Chipotle, bingo, raffles, and a band competition. The majority of our money comes from our concession stand that we run during football games. We are always looking for new ways to raise money so please voice your opinion at our band booster meetings or contact Amy Miller our Vice President, with ideas you may have.

**Concession stand**

The concession stand is run throughout marching season at all of our home games football and soccer. We need at least 6 volunteers for soccer games and at least 20 volunteers per each home football game. Although all customers are a priority, during half-time, the band kids from both teams become our priority. Band kids only have until end of third quarter to eat, use the restroom, and be back in uniform ready to perform at the start of the fourth quarter. As mentioned in the fees section, you can work off $150.00 of the band fee. For example: if two parents work the same night for their child, they have worked off $100.00 of the band fee and would only require one other shift to be worked. Everyone will be required to sign up to work concession stand especially on Friday nights. This is how we make our money. There will be a sign up genius made for this and will be available soon. Any questions concerning concession stand please contact Paula or Rob Kneram, our concessions co-chairs.

**Football Games/Competitions**

Football/Junior Varsity Band--Our band attends and performs at all home games and away games that are in our conference. The schools include Musselman, Martinsburg, Jefferson, Hedgesville, and Washington High Schools. Please come and support the band at home games as well as away games. We are the band’s groupies and the band always sounds great. For attending home games or volunteering at the concession, the best advice I can give is to show up between 5:30 to 6:00 and park near the band room. Please back up into parking spaces as it can get congested during pick up time. Football games are for all members of the marching band

Competition/Varsity Band---The competition band will travel to competitions to compete against other schools. Competitions are held at several different schools throughout marching season. We are part of the Tournament of Bands division. At competitions, the band is judged based on their performance. We compete in Division 1, which is no more than 30 band members and color guard. Even if your child is not a part of competition band, please come and support the band. We are hosting our own competition on September 22nd and need sponsors. If you have any questions about how you can help please contact Tara Fritz, our Competition Chair.

How do we make the events we attend possible? A lot of planning and parent help. During each trip away from the school we will need chaperones on the buses, and you must fill out a form through board of education for a background check to be approved as a chaperone. We also need anyone who has a truck and is willing to tow the equipment while traveling. This will help us from having to have a bus just to tow equipment.

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| Information (FYI) You can find an updated schedule through smhsband.net. Please be sure to check often  Updated information also available on remind.com. You must sign up to get alerts.  Also, our Facebook group is The Spirit of Spring Mills Band Boosters, it is a closed group and you will have to request an invite.  Any questions please contact a board member or you can use our email at SpiritofSMHS@gmail.com.  Band Director: Mr. Cheek can be reached at [hcheek@k12.wv.us](mailto:hcheek@k12.wv.us). |

**Tips for traveling**

There are several items which will make being out in the cold more bearable. During games/competitions we try to sit together in the stands, this not only shows support for our band, but it’s the best way to stay warm. And if you are like me, you want to be warm.

Portable heaters are an option and allowed to be taken into the stands.

Blankets and trash bags are the easiest way to stay warm and if possible bring extras as someone will always need one. Yes as odd as it is trash bags placed around your legs help you to stay warm.

Cushion or small pillow to sit on. The stands are uncomfortable and cold.

Hot Hands. These are small pouches that are air activated and will help keep hands and feet warm for several hours. You can find hot hands at Wal-Mart in the camping section and they are not very expensive at all, but are a definite must have. Just don’t tell the band kids that you have them because like vultures they will surround you and ask for them.

Snacks and Cash. Most venues allow you to bring snacks into the stadium. However, please remember that at football games and competitions the band boosters of that school are working to raise money, just like our band boosters do. Remember to bring cash to help support them as well.

## After marching season

After marching season, our support of the band does not end. The band goes right into concert season. We have two concerts every year that we share with the orchestra, one in the winter and one in the spring, and possibly an extra concert or two just for band parents. We also have adjudication which is where the band is judged based on performance and given a rating. In 2017, we got our first superior rating and hopefully we get that this year as well, but if not we still have great young musicians that you will see grow throughout the years. Another competition we did was at Hershey, called Music in the Parks. If we go this year, family is welcome to attend but will need to purchase their own tickets. Looking forward to a wonderful year serving our band with all of you, new and old. Again welcome to “The Spirit of Spring Mills” band family.

Sincerely,

Terra Ayres, Booster President