

## **St. Paul's School Marching Wolves Mardi Gras Chaperone Information and Guidelines**

The following guidelines have been compiled by the SPS Marching Wolves Band Director and the Executive Board of the SPS Marching Wolves Booster Club. These guidelines have been approved by the St. Paul's School President and Principal.

**\*\*\*When you sign up to chaperone, you agree to abide by these guidelines.\*\*\*  
*All chaperones must have completed the Archdiocese Safe Environment Training.***

Chaperoning the boys and girls of the Marching Wolves is a privilege, and priority is given to parents based on the number of volunteer hours worked in concessions. All Band and Golden Blue parents were made aware of this when they signed the Parental Permission form required for their child to participate in the Marching Wolves.

Chaperoning is a very rewarding experience, but it is a large responsibility and physically demanding. If you volunteer to chaperone, please make sure you are able to perform your duties. Please be aware that you may be marching in less than ideal weather conditions and long distances. If the parade rolls, the Marching Wolves march!

### **Factors which determine the number of chaperones we bring:**

- Safety is the first priority. An adequate number of chaperones are brought to ensure the safety and hydration of the boys and girls. Bringing too many chaperones creates the issue of the chaperones needing chaperoning, and this is not safe as it takes our focus off the students.
- Seating space available on buses.
- Limitations of chaperone numbers set out in the parade contracts or by parade marshals.
- Integrity of the performance and the experience for the Marching Wolves and the spectators who enjoy their performance. Too many chaperones hinder the performance and negatively impacts the experience for the boys and girls, the spectators, and the parents along the route who want to see their children perform.

### **Chaperone rules and responsibilities include the following:**

- You are on duty from the time you arrive at report time until we return to SPS and the buses are unloaded.
- You must wear clearly marked SPS attire. The booster club has MW's windbreakers to loan if needed.
- You must have a working flashlight for all night parades.
- You must stay with the group and ensure all students stay with the group. No students are to leave the lineup or staging area without a chaperone, and then only for appropriate reasons such as restroom use.
- Assist with loading and unloading the trailer if needed, assist with serving food pre- and post-parade, refilling water bottles, and assist with locating restrooms and accompanying students to restrooms.
- During parade, chaperones create a "barrier" to keep the crowd a reasonable and safe distance away by *respectfully* asking spectators to step back. A smile when doing this goes a long way!
- Look out for and clear debris in the street that can be a tripping hazard, as well as clearly identify horse droppings and potholes to keep the students from stepping in them.
- Be aware that you may or may not be marching next to your child. We do our best to accommodate this, but we must place chaperones in a way that is safest for the entire group.
- Please, NO SMOKING/VAPING when on duty.
- Let us know ASAP if you must cancel so the board has time to find another parent to replace you.
- A much more detailed briefing will be given to all chaperones before departing campus for each parade.

After signing up for the parade or parades you would like to chaperone at the general membership meeting, you will be notified by email advising you of which parades you are chaperoning. Please do not show up at report time expecting to chaperone if you have not received an email confirmation. If your name is not on the chaperone list, you will not be allowed to travel with the MW's. Every effort is made to be fair with assigning chaperones, and we appreciate everyone's cooperation and willingness to volunteer.

**Thank you for making Mardi Gras a great experience for our children!**