



The 2017 Steve Stefani Dance Marathon
49 W Leamy Avenue
Springfield, PA 19064
www.ssdmtk.org

http://fourdiamonds.donordrive.com/event/ssdm

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Your child is about to have one of the greatest experiences of their lives as a 2017 Steve Stefani Dance Marathon participant! Springfield High School will be holding its 15th annual SSDM in support of raising funds and awareness for pediatric cancer patients on March 31, 2017 at 6:00 pm until April 1, 2017 at 9:00 am. Last year we were able to raise over \$237,000 and this year our goal is to raise over \$200,000; we are also striving to get 55% of the student body to participate!

This is where we ask for your help as parents and supporters of the 2017 SSDM. Although your child will be the one standing for 15 hours to battle childhood cancer, you as the parents also play an important role. In this letter you will learn more about Mail Call, Family Hour, Chaperones and Luminaries. Any help that you can offer will be greatly appreciated.

Mail Call

The purpose of Mail Call is to inspire and motivate the dancers throughout Dance Marathon. This is accomplished through the dancers receiving letters or small packages from you as their parents, as well as family and friends. We want you to create a **small** "care package" for your child. It can include candy, snacks, coloring books, and especially *inspirational letters* from friends and family members (Keep in mind that the dancers will be provided with food and drinks throughout the night). This care package will be given to your child during Mail Call at Dance Marathon (**3:00 am**). Through this care package, the dancers will be inspired to continue on throughout the night!

Packages and letters can be dropped off at the SHS main office. Please label each package and letter as follows: **your child's name, c/o the 2017 SSDM Mail Call**. Please deliver these anytime between **March 27, 2017 and March 31, 2017** by 12:00 noon so that we can sort them for the dancers. Because of the large amount of dancers this year, please limit the size of your care package to **one small box/bag, no bigger than a shoe box** as we do not have the space for oversized packages.

You can go to the link below, which is a google form where you can type out your encouraging message to your child (this is also a great way to have family and friends send their messages of support). We will personally print out each letter and have it waiting for the participant during Mail Call.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfQxrWdEAbm05gYT9lgylx8BQQXvX4qUNNWIAEEOUo9iUOWiA/viewform>

Family Hour

Family Hour is always a special and memorable event at Dance Marathon. During this time we will have a number of families speak about their children who are currently battling cancer or those who have valiantly fought their cancer diagnosis. We are inviting and encouraging all of the parents, family, and friends to attend this event. It will begin promptly at **8:00 pm**, and it is something that you do not want to miss.



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Luminaries

At **1:30 am** (weather dependent), the high school track will be lit with luminaries to honor the memory of those who have passed and celebrate the lives of those who have survived this terrible disease or those who continue their fight. The students will walk the track in silent remembrance, and you are more than welcome to join them. Should there be rain, or other inclement weather, the luminary walk will take place on Monday, April 3, 2017 at 8:00 pm.

If you are interested in purchasing a luminary, you can do so prior to the event by downloading the form from the dance marathon website (www.ssdmftk.org) or purchasing one on the night of the marathon. The cost of a luminary is \$10.

Besides during our family hour and luminary walk, we would like to pack the gym with supporters at both the beginning and end of our Dance Marathon. If you can find the time, please join the opening and closing of our marathon (6:00 pm on Friday, March 31, 2017 or 8:00 am on Saturday, April 1, 2017). The amount we have raised will be revealed at 9:00 am. ANYTHING and EVERYTHING you can do to support the 2017 SSDM will greatly help our cause! Please show your support for your kids as they donate their time to help fight pediatric cancer!

Sincerely,

John N. Gildea

Mr. John N. Gildea, Advisor

Alexis Hoopes

Alexis Hoopes, Dancer Relations Committee Head

P.S. If family members who live far away would like to send letters to a participant, please have them fill out the Google form from the previous page, as this will be the easiest way to deliver their message of inspiration.

*Also, family members not in Springfield can view the marathon on the internet at the following website address: www.ssdcougars.org/SET. Supporters within the district can view the event on Springfield Educational Television (SETV), Springfield School District's Cable Television Channel. SETV is available with FiOS on channel 29, Comcast on channel 11, and RCN on channel 51.